



refugee
council of
australia
**annual
report
2009
-2010**



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Cover photograph: Somali refugee children play outside the new arrivals section of Ifo refugee camp in Dadaab, Kenya. © UNHCR/E. Hockstein

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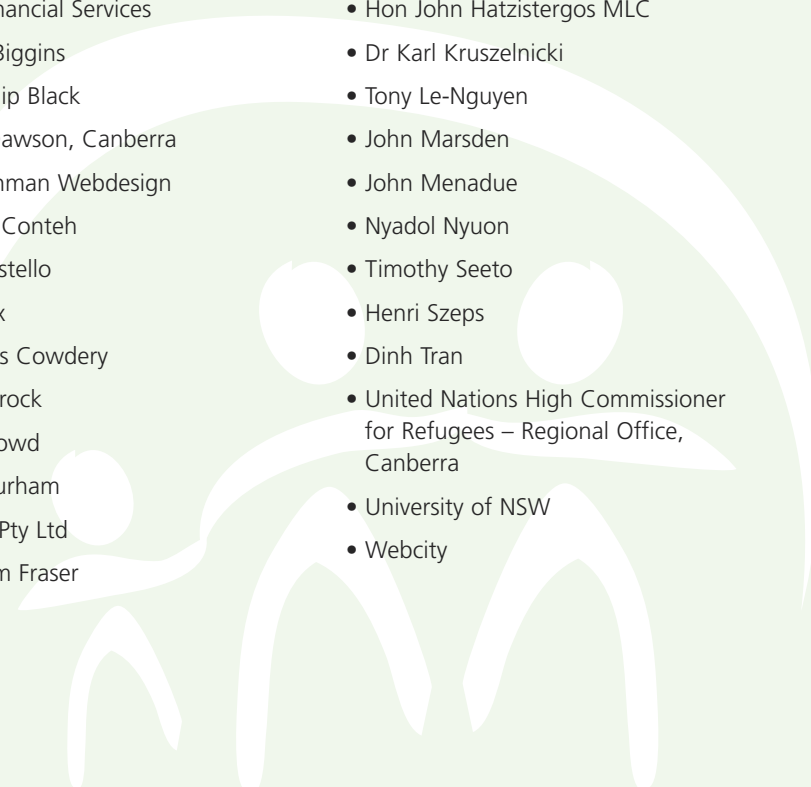
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President's Report

The defining feature of Australia's response to the needs of refugees and asylum seekers in 2009-10 was, unfortunately, the divisive political debate about the treatment of asylum seekers arriving by boat. This debate almost completely dominated media coverage of refugee issues and the implications of the debate were the focus of much political and bureaucratic energy as the 2010 Federal election drew closer. During the 2009-10 year, the numbers of people in immigration detention grew from 1036 to 4077, most of them people seeking protection from persecution. The number of children in detention facilities increased from around 100 to more than 550. Hundreds of these detainees were affected by the suspension in April of the processing of new asylum claims from citizens of Afghanistan and Sri Lanka.

Despite this, the Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA) maintained energy and focus and achieved much in critical areas of our work. Throughout the year, we remained a strong and clear voice in the debate about asylum seekers, continually arguing the need for a constructive and bipartisan political response to the needs of people seeking protection in Australia. Through submissions, dialogue with government and public discussion, we constantly pushed the need for Australia to devote much greater attention to working towards an Asia-Pacific regional refugee protection framework, to address, in particular, the shortage of viable protection options for asylum seekers in South and South-East Asia.

The year began with some positive policy developments. In July 2009, the Australian Government replaced its old "45 day rule", which barred many asylum seekers on Bridging Visas from working or getting access to basic health care, with a policy allowing for Medicare support and permission to work to be granted to people complying with the status resolution process. In September, the Government passed legislation abolishing the policy of charging people for their time in immigration detention centres.

Throughout the year, RCOA conducted or completed important research on refugee settlement issues. In November 2009, we released research on approaches to consulting young people of refugee background. A literature review of research on the economic, social and civic contributions of Australia's refugee and humanitarian entrants was released in February. In June, we completed, for release in July 2010, research reports focusing on good practice in employment strategies for refugee and humanitarian entrants, engagement of refugee community members in sporting activities and education and training options for newly arrived teenagers and young adults.

RCOA represented the views of members and supporters to government on many issues, through submissions and formal and informal dialogue with Parliamentarians and government departments. These submissions included our annual submission on the Refugee and Humanitarian Program, completed after a detailed national consultation process, as well as submissions on the Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Scheme, migration treatment of disability, Australia's relationship with Africa and proposed legislation on immigration detention, the citizenship test, complementary protection and anti people smuggling measures.

In June 2010, we supported three refugee community representatives from Australia to take international refugee concerns to UNHCR's senior leadership and to its global NGO Consultations in Geneva. The issues raised were gathered from a diverse range of communities in Australia who are in direct contact with refugees and asylum seekers in different parts of Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Diasporas in countries such as Australia can play a vital role in raising awareness of the situation of voiceless refugees in situations of deep crisis. We worked closely with the University of NSW's Centre for Refugee Research in supporting the community representatives through gathering and preparing information, raising funds for the travel to Geneva, offering briefings and training and giving practical support during the Geneva meetings.

For RCOA as an organisation, 2009-10 was a year in which support for the organisation's work grew considerably. In December, members of A Just Australia (AJA), a network of Australians involved in promoting fair policies for asylum seekers, voted to merge their organisation into RCOA. The merger took place in January and AJA's members and supporters were invited to become part of RCOA's network, with RCOA expanding its involvement in public engagement. We were delighted that more than 90% of AJA's members had signed up as individual members of RCOA prior to the 2010-11 year commencing. This, combined with the momentum of membership growth over the past four years, saw RCOA's overall membership grow by 251 (or 67%) to 625 – 141 organisational members (up from 130) and 484 individual members (up from 240). Our income from members and individual donors for the year grew by more than \$45,000 on the previous year, to more than \$120,000 – nearly a quarter of our overall income.

Another significant step forward was the restoration, after eight years, of some core funding from the Australian Government. The \$120,000 grant from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) assisted RCOA to continue its role of providing fearless and independent advice on refugee policy issues, based on a sound understanding of the issues faced by refugees, asylum seekers and the organisations which support them. RCOA maintains a diverse range of funding sources, with more than 60% of funding in 2009-10 received from sources independent of the Australian Government. We were very pleased to receive support again from



In Malaysia, as in many other Asian countries, even official UNHCR refugee status does not always afford adequate protection. These two Afghan refugee brothers in their 20s are not allowed to work legally, even though they are desperate to support their families. © UNHCR/Zalmāi.



the Sidney Myer Fund for the development of our membership policy networks. Over the past four years, foundations associated with the Myer family have supported us with more than \$235,000 in funding. Our financial position in 2009-10 was stronger than it has ever been, with support coming from six government bodies, three foundations, 11 non-government organisations and many hundreds of members and supporters.

RCOA's staff team, ably led by CEO Paul Power, served the organisation extraordinarily well during 2009-10. This report gives readers just some sense of the staff team's achievements – the quality of the research conducted, the extent of the engagement with RCOA members and refugee communities, the effectiveness of the dialogue with government and UNHCR, and the organisation's role in public information strategies. With the merger, AJA's National Coordinator, Kate Gauthier, joined the RCOA staff as Communications Manager in January. She contributed considerably to our growing profile as an organisation actively engaged in public discussion of refugee issues through the media. Refugee Week 2010, coordinated by RCOA, provided an ideal opportunity to increase public awareness of the contribution of former refugees to Australian society, with a record number of local events (more than 190) held around Australia.

As President, I am delighted to work with such a diverse, talented and committed board. During 2009-10, we expanded our board membership to include two people with a long-term commitment to refugees and asylum seekers – Phil Glendenning, the former deputy chair of AJA and current director of the Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education in Sydney, and Judyth Watson, a former Western Australian Government minister who is a board member of the Coalition of Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Detainees (CARAD) in Perth. Our board includes people from each Australian state and the ACT, people who have been refugees themselves and representatives of organisations involved in many different forms of support for refugees and asylum seekers. Four members of our board (including me) have served, at various times, on the AJA board, ensuring that the strong past connection between RCOA and AJA lives on both in our staff and our board.

RCOA faces the coming year with plenty of energy and optimism – both of which are vital for a small organisation attempting to make a qualitative difference to the lives of refugees and asylum seekers in Australia and internationally. The domestic and international challenges in refugee support are enormous and diverse – from the sad realities of protracted displacement around the globe and the pressing need for a more sustainable regional protection framework in the Asia-Pacific region to the search for domestic alternatives to immigration detention and enhanced support to newly-arrived refugees adjusting to life in Australia. The contribution we make is only possible through the thousands of Australians who support our work by keeping us informed about current issues, supporting us financially and adding their voices to ours.

John Gibson, President

RCOA's objectives and priorities

The Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA) is a national, not for profit organisation with more than 630 organisational and individual members. Formed in November 1981, RCOA's aim is to promote the adoption of flexible, humane and constructive policies towards refugees, asylum seekers and displaced persons by the Australian and other Governments and their communities.

To achieve this aim, the RCOA has a number of key objectives:

- (a) To act as a unifying organisation and to represent its members.
- (b) To promote the empowerment of refugee communities and individuals in Australia and internationally and support the capacity building of Australia's refugee sector.
- (c) To monitor, research and present information on issues relating to the needs and circumstances of refugees and asylum seekers.
- (d) To assist governments and inter-governmental organisations to formulate policy and improve support and services for refugees and asylum seekers.
- (e) To increase public awareness and media sensitivity towards refugees and asylum seekers.

The priority activities for RCOA are set by its members, as represented by an elected Board. They centre on conducting research, policy analysis, representation, training and community education. We are funded through membership fees, by project grants, by trusts and foundations, by undertaking consultancies and through donations.

RCOA works to further the interests of members who themselves are involved in the full spectrum of work with refugees, from assisting refugees in countries of first asylum and when they repatriate to their homelands, to providing settlement support to refugees in Australia and offering protection and legal advice to refugees and asylum seekers.

RCOA maintains close ties to many international organisations, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), Asia-Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN) and refugee councils in other countries. In July 2009, RCOA's expertise in refugee issues was recognised with the granting of Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, providing the organisation with greater access to UN conferences and meetings. The Council is also engaged in regular dialogue with Federal and state government departments, in particular the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), and with bodies such as the Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT), the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and the Australian Human Rights Commission. RCOA is a member of ICVA, APRRN and ACFID.

RCOA's people

A Just Australia merger

In December 2009, members of the refugee policy campaign network, A Just Australia (AJA), voted in favour of a motion to merge the AJA organisation with the work of RCOA. This motion, proposed by members of the AJA board and supported overwhelmingly by its membership, brought together two of the most significant independent voices on refugee policy. AJA's National Coordinator, Kate Gauthier, joined RCOA's staff in January as Communications Manager and, in this role, has continued to direct the AJA campaign. AJA's Deputy Chair, Phil Glendenning (director of Sydney's Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education), was co-opted to the RCOA board, along with Judyth Watson, a board member of the Coalition for Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Detainees in Perth and a former AJA board member. They joined two current RCOA board members who had previously served on the AJA board. While RCOA's formal structure remained unchanged, the AJA campaign has been retained by RCOA as a major focus of its public education work. Our aim is to build a stronger national network, providing people with constructive opportunities to express their support for fair treatment of refugees and asylum seekers.

Executive Committee 2009-10

President

John Gibson
Barrister-at-Law
Principal, International Refugee Consulting

Vice President

Professor William Maley AM
Barrister-at-Law
Director, Asia Pacific College of Diplomacy, Australian National University

Chairperson

Esta Paschalidis-Chilas
Program Manager, Child and Family Services, Metro Migrant Resource Centre, Marrickville NSW

Immediate Past President

David Bitel
Secretary General, International Commission of Jurists (Australian Division)

Secretary

Sky de Jersey

Treasurer

Lionel Conyer
Member of Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia

Executive Committee members

Maureen Adamson
Individual RCOA member, Hobart

Paris Aristotle AM
Director, Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture

Elizabeth Biok
Solicitor, Legal Aid Commission of NSW Member, International Commission of Jurists

Sonia Caton
Refugee and Immigration Legal Service, Brisbane

Phil Glendenning (from December 2009)
Director, Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education, Sydney, NSW

Kevin Liston
Team Leader, Community Development, Refugee Services, Families SA

Dr Melika Sheikh-Eldin
Manager, Settlement Partnerships, AMES Victoria

Jenny Semple
CEO, South Eastern Region Migrant Resource Centre

Dr Judyth Watson (from December 2009)
Board member, Coalition for Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Detainees (CARAD), Perth, Western Australia

Bobby Whitfield
Queensland African Communities Council

Staff 2009-10

As at 30 June 2010, RCOA had three full-time and four part-time staff

Chief Executive Officer (Sydney)
Paul Power

Communications Manager (Canberra)
Kate Gauthier

Research Coordinator (Melbourne)
Rebecca Eckard

Information and Membership Officer (Sydney)
Lucy Morgan

Settlement Policy Officer (Melbourne)
Louise Olliff

Administration and Projects Manager (Sydney)

Eileen Wahab

Accounting Officer (Sydney)
Martyn Green

Other staff who worked for RCOA during 2009-10 in ongoing roles were:

Tamara Domicelj (National Policy Director, Sydney) – until April 2010

Natalie Gooch (Information and Membership Officer, Sydney) – until December 2009

Volunteers and interns 2009-10

Jemise Anning

Nuria Baena Tourar

Tim Clarke

Margherita Drago

Brett Enman

Laksmi Govindasamy

Jan Ho

Preeti Kanan

Joseph Landry

Lucy Morgan

Danielle Murphy-Durland

Liana Papoutsis

Arnjali Sabapathy

David Maurice Smith

Georgia Snow

Dan Soderstrom

Aleksandar Vickovich

Georgina Villaggi

Eileen Wahab

Katherine Wells

Irina Zhiguanova

Assistance with Refugee Week events:
Kamal Akwani, Banu Baran, Patricia Dell'Olio, Cristina Fica, Eugenia Mora, Katrien Pickles, Anita Rajaretnam.

Research

During 2009-10, RCOA completed or released seven significant research documents relating to Australia's refugee program and settlement issues.



Refugee children from Burma in class at Umpium Refugee Camp in western Thailand. © UNHCR/R.Arnold

Submission on 2010-11 refugee program

In 2009-10, RCOA was again contracted by DIAC to conduct national consultations on Australia's Refugee and Humanitarian Program and present an annual submission to the Australian Government outlining community views about the program. The consultation process, conducted in November and December, was extensive, involving more than 430 people from 33 cities and towns in eight states and territories. Participants included refugee and humanitarian entrants from at least 17 countries of origin and representatives of more than 180 organisations. The submission contained views on the planning of the Refugee and Humanitarian Program, visa

processing and asylum policy concerns and a wide variety of settlement issues for refugees, as well as thoughts about how the refugee program could be better promoted to the Australian public. The submission also drew together key statistics on Australian immigration, global refugee needs and resettlement trends. It included 59 recommendations to government, providing concrete planning suggestions for Australia's refugee program and recommendations on issues as diverse as post-arrival orientation, employment and family support. RCOA presented the submission to Immigration

Minister Chris Evans on January 27 at the Minister's annual meeting with peak bodies and national organisations. The submission's recommendations formed the basis of RCOA's ongoing discussions with DIAC in 2010.

'What Works' report on job strategies

In June 2010, RCOA completed a major research report focusing on employment transitions for refugee and humanitarian entrants. With the support of the Sidney Myer Fund, *What Works: Employment strategies for refugee and humanitarian entrants* presents findings from a series of in-depth interviews with a broad spectrum of services, refugee communities and employers across all states and territories and a comprehensive national and international literature review. The research focused on mapping solutions to the employment barriers faced by many people coming under the Humanitarian Program, providing an Australia-wide perspective that highlights common themes and experiences. Key themes of innovative practice have been identified through this research, including: the effectiveness of specialist employment services targeting refugees;

Australia's Refugee and Humanitarian Program, 2009-10

- Offshore refugee visas: 6003
- Offshore Special Humanitarian visas: 3233
- Onshore protection and humanitarian visas: 4534
- Total refugee and humanitarian visas: 13,770
- Primary countries of origin for offshore refugee and humanitarian entrants were Burma 1959, Iraq 1688, Bhutan 1144, Afghanistan 951, Congo (DRC) 584, Ethiopia 392, Somalia 317, Sudan 298, Liberia 258, Sierra Leone 237. Regions of origin were Asia-Pacific 38.6%, Middle East and South-West Asia 31.8%, Africa 29.2%, Europe and the Americas 0.4%.
- Countries of origin for onshore protection visas were Afghanistan 1514, Sri Lanka 505, China 492, Iraq 321, Iran 282, Zimbabwe 255, Pakistan 218, Stateless 192, Egypt 79, Burma 78, Other 579.

Australia's refugee and humanitarian arrivals since Federation

Refugee arrivals 1901 to 1947 (estimate)	20,000
Offshore refugee and humanitarian arrivals 1948 to 2010	693,549
Asylum seekers recognised as refugees before 1996 (estimate)	15,000
Onshore protection visas issued 1996 to 2010	32,431
Total	760,980

employers who value and are committed to workforce diversity; coordination between refugee communities, education and training providers, employment services and industry; initiatives that tap into entrepreneurial spirit through social enterprise and small business development; and building awareness within refugee communities about career pathways in Australia. The broad scope of interviews ensured that extremely successful and diverse models in local areas have been documented with a view to communicating learning across other states and territories.

Research on young people and education

With financial assistance from the NSW Minister for Youth, Graham West, RCOA undertook research into post-compulsory education and training pathways for refugee youth. *Finding the Right Time and Place: Exploring post-compulsory education and training pathways for young people from refugee backgrounds in NSW* highlights some of the major challenges faced by newly arrived young people aged 16-24 in pursuing education in Australia and identifies different 'models of excellence'. The research was informed by interviews with 30 stakeholders, including teachers, academics, program coordinators, project workers, community representatives and policy-makers. A series of 18 case studies of models that were identified as good practice were compiled, as well as recommendations for bridging education and training gaps for this cohort of young people. While the research focused on NSW, many of its findings are relevant to other educational jurisdictions. An annotated bibliography of key research documents related to refugee young people and education has also been compiled and published on the RCOA website.

Sport's role in bridging cultures

Throughout 2008-09, RCOA conducted a research project investigating the role of sport in assisting refugee settlement. Funded by NSW Sport and Recreation, the project examined the issues surrounding refugee participation in sport and highlighted initiatives from around Australia which aim to increase the involvement of refugees in sport. The research report, which was formally launched in July 2010, documents the benefits of sport to refugees and the barriers they may face to becoming involved in sport, as well as outlining practical guidelines for designing sport programs which cater for the needs of refugee participants. As part of the project, RCOA assisted NSW Sport and Recreation in administering a grants program to fund initiatives which facilitate involvement by people from refugee backgrounds in sport.

Refugees' contribution to Australia

In February 2010, RCOA released a literature review on the economic, social and civic contributions of refugees in Australia. Commissioned by DIAC, the work examined relevant national and international sources, identifying key findings and emerging themes as well as information gaps and future areas of research. RCOA found that the 750,000 refugees and humanitarian migrants settled by Australia since Federation have had a profound impact in enhancing the nation's social, cultural and economic life. The research revealed that refugees make substantial contributions to their new country – expanding



Students at Lurnea High School take part in creative writing activities, run by Bankstown Youth Development Services, as part of the Refugee Action Support program. © Bilal Reda, BYDS.

consumer markets for local goods, opening new markets, bringing in new skills, creating employment and filling empty employment niches. It also identifies information gaps and recommends areas for future research into the factors which contribute to success in the resettlement of refugees and their participation in economic, social and cultural life in Australia.

Engagement of young people

In 2008-09, RCOA undertook a literature review and series of youth consultations in Victoria, WA, NSW and ACT with the aim of developing a targeted and informed strategy for the ongoing engagement of refugee young people in advocating to have their needs and concerns addressed and ideas recognised at a national level. The *Amplifying the Voices of Young Refugees* project, funded by the Foundation for Young Australians, was premised upon the belief that listening to the voices of young refugees and humanitarian entrants within national forums, such as RCOA's own annual community consultations, will facilitate the development of advocacy strategies, policy recommendations and project initiatives that are informed by and responsive to the priorities of a key and currently under-heard population. The report was launched in November 2009. Following from the recommendations of this report, a number of youth consultations were held as part of RCOA's community consultations to inform the 2010-11 intake submission.

Family reunion in humanitarian program

Through annual community consultations, RCOA has long identified family reunion as one of the top priorities for refugees and other humanitarian entrants. Facilitating family reunion has been shown to have an impact on settlement through improvements in economic participation as well as the psychosocial wellbeing of refugees themselves. This discussion paper outlines some of the key issues and concerns with regard to how people settling in Australia through the refugee and humanitarian program are able to reunite with their families and draws on issues raised in the previous three years' community consultations, as well as in-depth interviews with two former refugees.

Representation and dialogue

While the 2009-10 year saw some positive improvements to Australia's refugee policy, the process of reform began to falter in some key areas with the resurgence of negative media coverage on refugee and asylum seeker issues and the development of damaging policies towards asylum seekers. RCOA was very active in representing the views of its membership on these developments. We remained in regular contact with our members and others working with refugees and asylum seekers through consultations, regular teleconferences on policy issues, meetings on specific issues, participation in interagency meetings and canvassing of views from specialist agencies. Using this feedback to inform our work, RCOA closely monitored policy developments, engaged in regular dialogue with Government and contributed to numerous government inquiries on refugee issues.



Somali refugees look back anxiously from the sea as they prepare to board a smuggler's boat departing to Yemen. Only eleven of the 128 people who took this boat were ever to reach Yemen alive. © Alixandra Fazzina/NOOR

Policy debates in 2009-10

Policy debates in 2009-10 have been marked by an increase in political rhetoric demonising people arriving by boat seeking protection in Australia. This increase in rhetoric was also met with a number of policy and legislative changes with significant impact on asylum seekers and refugees in Australia.

RCOA led the call for an end to scaremongering and politicking on asylum seeker issues, encouraging Australia to play a lead role promoting open and transparent cooperation with our neighbours and UNHCR to find durable solutions for the

region's refugees. This was supported by Erika Feller, UNHCR's Assistant Commissioner for Protection, who, when visiting Australia in February 2010, issued a call for a more balanced public debate in Australia about refugee policy. She called for "strong, ethical leadership" from politicians to focus discussion not on "the refugee problem" but on the problems faced by refugees. During Ms Feller's visit, RCOA was one of six NGOs to participate in a roundtable gathering with senior UNHCR and Australian Government officials to discuss Australia's international involvement in refugee protection issues.

Dialogue with Government

RCOA was very actively involved in discussions with government on a wide range of issues during 2009-10. Through these meetings, RCOA took up many issues raised by members and supporters through our various policy networks and our annual community consultations on the Refugee and Humanitarian Program.

We engaged in regular dialogue with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC), participating in numerous meetings scheduled by DIAC as well as meetings with the Minister for Immigration. These discussions included:

- Participating, with other organisations, in the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship's Peak Bodies Meeting on the Humanitarian Program for 2010-11
- The DIAC-NGO Dialogue on Humanitarian Issues held in Sydney in August and Melbourne in February, each a day-long discussion of a wide variety of issues affecting refugee policy.
- DIAC's pre-ExCom dialogue, held as part of the planning for the Australian delegation's participation in UNHCR's Executive Committee (ExCom) meeting in Geneva.
- DIAC's Onshore Protection Consultative Group, designed to enable more detailed NGO input into government policy on asylum seeker issues, in July, November and March.
- The Refugee Resettlement Advisory Committee (RRAC) and the RRAC Regional Settlement Working Group in October, March and June.
- Meetings of DIAC's NSW Asylum Seeker and Refugee Forum.
- The Australian Cultural Orientation (AUSCO) Program Consultative Committee.

In addition, RCOA engaged with numerous other Australian Government bodies, including the Migration Review Tribunal and Refugee Review Tribunal, the Attorney-General's Department, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Centrelink and the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. RCOA also gave evidence to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee (September and April) and the Joint Standing

Committee on Migration (March).

Asylum policy concerns

Issues related to people seeking protection in Australia was a major topic in RCOA's work with Government in 2009-10.

Regional refugee protection issues

Responding to the unfolding situation of asylum seekers and refugees in Indonesia, RCOA worked closely with Australian and international organisations to establish principles for a regional refugee protection framework. RCOA called for sustainable regional refugee protection framework and highlighted that this work can only occur with genuine dialogue and participation from Asian countries affected by significant flows of asylum seekers, current and potential countries of resettlement, UNHCR and non-government organisations.

RCOA called upon the Australian Government in November 2009 to act urgently to resolve the Oceanic Viking impasse, emphasising the importance of finding prompt resettlement options for the refugees involved and calling for greater regional cooperation on refugee protection. In response to media reports that the Indonesian Government was considering returning asylum seekers whose claims were yet to be examined, RCOA urged the Australian Government to take action to prevent the return of asylum seekers aboard the Merak boat to situations of persecution. At the RCOA Annual General Meeting in Melbourne in November 2009, RCOA's members supported a resolution calling for the Australian Government to make an immediate allocation of 500 additional refugee resettlement places, as a practical gesture of Australia's preparedness to work constructively with Indonesia to find solutions for refugees in the region. A media report in August 2010 brought to light the Australian Government's plan to allocate 500 resettlement places for refugees in Indonesia awaiting resettlement.

Immigration detention

Immigration detention was yet again a major theme in Australia's refugee policy debates and RCOA's discussions with Government throughout 2009-10. The Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee completed its inquiry into the *Migration Amendment (Immigration Detention Reform) Bill 2009*, taking up some concerns raised by RCOA and other organisations. The Bill's stated aim is to put into legislative effect the "Detention Values" announced by Immigration Minister Chris Evans in July 2008. Among the recommendations made by the committee, major changes included the need for, wherever feasible, immigration residential housing to be used in lieu of detention, that physical and mental health facilities be upgraded on Christmas Island, and that the Australian National Audit Office be engaged to review detention services and facilities. Additional recommendations related to the public release of information and access to detention centres by the Australian Human Rights Commission and the media. RCOA raised concerns through its submission and at the public hearings about the absence of some of the values from the legislation and some provisions which are at odds with these values. Our concerns

included the need for an independent guardian for unaccompanied children, the lack of clarity about which aspects of the legislation apply to people detained on Christmas Island, the stipulation that resolution of a non-citizen's immigration status can be a purpose of detention, the absence of a requirement to release a detainee once there is no further basis to detain, the lack of clarity as to how discretionary decisions to detain are to be made, and the need for judicial review of detention.

Legislative and regulatory changes

This year saw a number of important policy and legislative changes take place, including the passing of legislation to remove detention debts, the new work rights arrangements for asylum seekers coming into effect, and the impending introduction of the Complementary Protection legislation.

The Migration Amendment (Abolishing Detention Debt) Bill passed, ending months of political debate about the policy of charging people for their time in immigration detention centres. The policy was introduced by the Keating Labor Government in 1992, maintained by the Howard Coalition Government and had proven to be both highly ineffective and heartless. Not replicated in any other country, the policy failed in its stated goal of recovering costs. As a deterrent, it also failed, as the policy was largely unknown internationally or domestically. The legislation passed with the support of all Labor and crossbench Parliamentarians, as well as several Liberals. RCOA welcomed the passage of the legislative amendment, highlighting the devastating impact of the policy upon individuals.

After years of lobbying by many organisations and community members, modifications to asylum seekers' eligibility for work rights and their access to Medicare came into effect in July 2009. The stated intent of the changes is to allow those who comply with the Migration Act to support themselves while awaiting a substantive outcome. Under the new arrangements, many of those who were previously prevented from working because they had sought protection after having been in Australia for more than 45 days in the previous 12 months, are now either eligible to work or to apply for permission to work. Some asylum seekers still need to demonstrate a compelling need to work and good cause for delayed lodgement. On September 8, 2009, the Senate rejected a Liberal Party motion to disallow these changes to asylum seekers' access to employment and Medicare services. Liberal Senator Judith Troeth joined Labor and crossbench Senators in opposing the motion.

After more than eight years of lobbying by RCOA and other agencies, the Australian Government put forward legislation to introduce a system of complementary protection, to consider the needs of people facing persecution on grounds which fall outside the Refugee Convention but are included in other human rights treaties. The Refugee Convention restricts protection to people facing persecution on the grounds of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion. Under current arrangements, there is no clear process for people who may face persecution, torture or death on other grounds, other than to seek the intervention of the



Representation and dialogue

Immigration Minister after all other avenues have failed. The *Migration Amendment (Complementary Protection) Bill 2009* has been tabled to address Australia's responsibilities under the Convention Against Torture, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. RCOA wrote to all Federal MPs and Senators, encouraging them to support complementary protection legislation. However, RCOA did express concern about some aspects of the wording of the Bill, recommending in a submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs changes be made, including to the threshold of harm outlined in the Bill.

A number of serious and troubling changes were also made this past year, many of which have negatively impacted on asylum seekers and refugees in Australia. These include the Australian Government's suspension of processing the protection claims of people from Afghanistan and Sri Lanka, the hasty introduction of the *Anti-People Smuggling and Other Measures Bill* that may increase the risk of harm to vulnerable groups and the reopening of the remote Curtin Immigration Detention Centre in Western Australia.

RCOA raised serious concerns about the Australian Government's decision to suspend the processing of asylum claims made by citizens of Afghanistan and Sri Lanka. While recognising the need for the Government to take into account changing security situations in Sri Lanka and Afghanistan and possible reviews by UNHCR of its advice on conditions in-country and their impact on refugee assessments, RCOA highlighted the potential impacts of delays in processing on the wellbeing of asylum seekers, particularly those in detention. RCOA highlighted in its response to Government that the suspension was discriminatory and violated the Refugee Convention (Article 3) and other international treaties and legal obligations and that the Government's lack of commitment to ending the suspension of the processing of protection applications is problematic and would lead to long-term detention, with the possibility of indefinite detention without a clear timeline for lifting the suspension. RCOA also called for there to be evidentiary procedure in how country information is applied to current applications and for careful monitoring of vulnerable groups of asylum seekers to ensure that they receive appropriate services and treatment.

Through a submission and testimony to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, RCOA expressed its concern that the *Anti-People Smuggling and Other Measures Bill 2010* legislation would increase the risk of harm to vulnerable groups, including asylum seekers. RCOA also raised concerns about the potential impact of the legislation on people attempting to escape persecution and dangerous situations and on people in Australia who provide support to relatives facing hardship or persecutory situations overseas. Despite the numerous concerns raised by a wide range of organisations about the proposed legislation, the Committee recommended that the Bill be passed with a single minor amendment. Greens Senator Sarah Hanson-Young released a dissenting report criticising the Committee's findings and recommending that the

Bill should not proceed without significant amendments. In addition to our submission and testimony to the Committee, RCOA wrote a letter to the Attorney General to express our concern that the legislation had been hastily drafted and that the risks outlined in the Bill were inconsistent with Australia's international legal obligations, lacked sensitivity to the needs of torture and trauma survivors and could potentially criminalise humanitarian actions.

RCOA strongly criticised government plans to house asylum seekers in the Curtin defence facility near Derby, WA. The facility, which was shut down in 2002, was notorious for being among the worst of all the onshore detention centres. It attempted to use demountables for long-term accommodation and the remoteness of its location made service delivery to torture and trauma survivors incredibly difficult.

Refugee settlement issues

In November 2009, RCOA launched two new policy networks: the International Policy Network and the Refugee Settlement Policy Network. Both networks provide a regular way for members to remain informed and to contribute to RCOA's policy development and engagement.

The Refugee Settlement Policy Network is jointly hosted with the Settlement Council of Australia and has quarterly meetings to discuss significant matters in refugee resettlement. This year's topics included:

- Refugee young people and education;
- Refugee health network coordination; and
- Sustainable employment pathways for refugee and humanitarian entrants.

The teleconference gatherings of the network involved people from agencies in all states and territories. Among the agencies actively engaged in discussions were the Centre for Multicultural Youth (Vic), Foundation House (Vic), Brotherhood of St Laurence (Vic), ACCES Services (Qld), Multicultural Development Association (Qld), Uniting Church (SA), Anglicare (NSW), St Vincent de Paul Society (NSW), NSW Refugee Health Service, Melaleuca Refugee Centre (NT), Migrant Resource Centre Southern Tasmania, and the Department of Education (Tas).

Legislative and policy changes

The Australian Government released its requests for tenders for three of its key refugee support programs – the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) services for English language training, the new Humanitarian Settlement Services (HSS) tender for post-arrival support and the pre-arrival Australian Cultural Orientation (AUSCO) program conducted for refugees prior to departure to Australia. RCOA put forward 34 recommendations for improvements to on-arrival support for refugees and humanitarian entrants in our response to the DIAC discussion paper on the Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy (IHSS). The RCOA submission commented on the IHSS principles, housing models, post-arrival cultural

orientation, health strategies, the role of volunteers in IHSS and the Special Humanitarian Program (SHP), the need for improved support to SHP proposers, regional settlement and the need for clarification of settlement support given to vulnerable Protection Visa holders.

RCOA made a short submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee inquiry into the *Australian Citizenship Amendment (Citizenship Test Review and Other Measures) Bill*. In our submission, RCOA reiterated our concerns about the impact of a citizenship test on refugee and humanitarian entrants but, given that both major parties are committed to the test remaining, we generally supported the minor changes being proposed. The passage of the Bill through Parliament amended the current citizenship test legislation to allow some people who have suffered torture or trauma outside Australia to be eligible for citizenship without sitting the citizenship test and to make some changes to the administration of the test and the conferring of citizenship. People who have a "permanent or enduring physical or mental incapacity" are now exempted from the Australian Citizenship Test.

Other submissions and reports

Role of former refugees from Africa

RCOA highlighted the invaluable role of former refugees from Africa in promoting relationships between Australia and the countries of Africa in a submission to an inquiry conducted by the Joint Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade. RCOA drew attention to the ways in which Australia's Refugee and Humanitarian Program may facilitate the development of effective partnerships and exchanges between Australia and African nations. The submission emphasised the contributions of African diaspora communities in Australia in building trade, aid and development relationships, highlighting human rights issues and facilitating cultural exchanges between Australia and African nations.

Visa applications for people with disabilities

In a submission to the Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Migration, RCOA called for the Australian Government to change its approach to handling offshore refugee and humanitarian visa applications for people with disabilities. RCOA argued for the Refugee and Humanitarian Program to be excluded from the government's migration health requirement, given the high numbers of refusals for refugees with disabilities and the vulnerability of those involved. In 2008-09, 116 offshore Refugee and Humanitarian visas were refused on health grounds, while only 69 applicants were granted a health waiver. RCOA also recommended that all applications for family reunion made by refugee and humanitarian entrants under the family stream of the general migration program ought to be eligible for a waiver of the health requirement, with an automatic presumption of a waiver grant. CEO Paul Power presented evidence to a hearing of the Parliamentary committee. RCOA also signed a joint submission to the inquiry led by the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations and



Workers verify registration of refugees in the Oubangui River region of the Republic of Congo before allowing them to collect aid items. © UNHCR / F.Noy

the National Ethnic Disability Alliance.

Australian Cultural Orientation program

RCOA has assisted the International Organization for Migration (IOM)'s AUSCO Global Coordinator through the recruitment of personnel from Australia to provide support to AUSCO trainers since early 2008. In 2009-10, the program evolved from provision of one-way advice by Australian settlement officers into a two-way exchange. The purpose of the revised program was to strengthen the links between AUSCO offshore and settlement onshore and to enhance understanding of the AUSCO program in Australia.

In the first half of 2010, two exchanges took place between Australian settlement service providers and AUSCO trainers: the first in March-April between an AUSCO trainer from Mae Sot, Thailand and Volker Schafer from Centrelink in Perth; and the second between a trainer from Damak, Nepal and Poly Kiyaga from AMES, Victoria in May-June 2010.



International links

UNHCR global refugee statistics, 2009

Refugees under UNHCR mandate	10.4 million
Refugees under UNRWA mandate (Palestinians)	4.8 million
Total	15.2 million
Internally displaced persons	27.1 million
Asylum seekers	983,420
Stateless persons (UNHCR estimate)	12 million

Top host countries for refugees, 31 Dec 2009

1 Pakistan	1,740,711	7 Chad	338,495
2 Iran	1,070,488	8 China	300,989
3 Syria	1,054,466	9 United States of America	275,461
4 Germany	593,799	47 Australia	22,548
5 Jordan	450,756		
6 Kenya	358,928		

(includes refugees under UNHCR mandate and people in refugee-like situations)

Asylum seekers recognised as refugees, 2009

1 Congo, Republic of	94,126	6 Chad	33,366
2 Kenya	76,133	7 Syrian Arab Republic	30,696
3 Ethiopia	42,693	8 Uganda	29,558
4 Malaysia	35,524	9 Sudan	26,496
5 Yemen	33,541	28 Australia	3,441

Refugees resettled, 2009

1 United States	79,937	7 United Kingdom	955
2 Canada	12,457	8 New Zealand	727
3 Australia	11,080	9 Finland	724
4 Germany	2,069	Others	
5 Sweden	1,936	(10 countries)	1166
6 Norway	1,391		

Australia's role in refugee protection, 2009

	Global total	Australia	
Refugees being hosted	10,396,540	22,548	0.2%
Asylum applications	1,181,215	6,206	0.5%
Asylum seekers recognised	631,905	3,441	0.5%
Refugees resettled	112,442	11,080	9.9%

Source: UNHCR's "2009 Global Trends"

Development of International Policy Network

In November 2009, RCOA held the first meeting of the International Policy Network, a new network focusing on international refugee issues. Key focus areas for the network include Australia's engagement in the Asia-Pacific region on refugee issues, Australian NGO involvement in UNHCR and international refugee policy gatherings and the nexus between refugee protection and humanitarian aid.

During 2010, the network focused on planning for UNHCR's Standing Committee meeting, annual NGO Consultations and Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement, held in Geneva in June and July. Network members discussed key issues to be taken up at the meetings and developed briefing papers and background material to support collective engagement efforts. The network also sought and received submissions from refugee communities and agencies working with refugees on issues of concern to be raised at key meetings, using this feedback to inform our advocacy work.

2009 UNHCR Executive Committee meeting

In September and October 2009, RCOA's National Policy Director Tamara Domicelj was one of three non-government observers in the Australian Government delegation which participated in UNHCR's Executive Committee (ExCom) meeting in Geneva. The five-day meeting brought together the senior leadership of UNHCR and representatives of 132 governments, 35 NGOs and a range of intergovernmental and other UN bodies. The Australian delegation was led by DIAC Deputy Secretary Peter Hughes and included Caz Coleman (Hotham Mission Asylum Seeker Project) and James Thomson (Act for Peace).

Issues discussed at the 2009 ExCom included:

- the need to develop comprehensive solutions to the problem of statelessness;
- the need for coherent responses to the specific challenges faced by urban refugee populations;
- the increasing difficulty of achieving durable solutions for refugees and the subsequent increase in protracted refugee situations;
- the shrinking of the protection space available to refugees;
- alternatives to the detention of asylum seekers and refugees;
- challenges in ensuring the safety and security of refugee populations;
- environmental sustainability in the context of refugee protection; and

- the rising incidence of xenophobia and violent hate crimes directed towards refugees and asylum seekers.

The meeting opened with an address by video conference from then Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd. In his speech, Prime Minister Rudd commended the work of the UNHCR and highlighted the need for governments to work together and support the efforts of UNHCR by sharing the responsibility for refugee protection. High Commissioner Antonio Guterres noted his appreciation of the improvement in Australia's approach to detention and stated, of his visit to Australia: "Civil society engagement was outstanding – I was very impressed with that". Australian Ambassador Caroline Millar from Australia was appointed President of ExCom for the coming year. Ms Millar stated that she will actively engage with UNHCR to support its efforts in finding practical solutions to restore normality to the lives of refugees and displaced persons, particularly those in protracted situations. For the first time in decades, no conclusion was passed at the ExCom meeting.

Supporting refugee leadership

In the lead-up to UNHCR's Standing Committee meeting and annual consultations with NGOs in June 2010, RCOA worked with the University of New South Wales' Centre for Refugee Research (CRR) to coordinate the involvement of three refugee community representatives in the meetings. Three representatives were recruited to highlight issues raised by refugee diasporas in Australia about refugee needs in Africa, the Middle East and the Asia-Pacific and voice concerns raised by refugees in those regions. The three chosen delegates were Parsuram Sharma-Luitai (Bhutanese community, Melbourne), representing the Asia-Pacific; Endalketchew Gage (Ethiopian community, Melbourne), representing Africa; and Deena Yako (Iraqi community, Sydney), representing the Middle East.

The three selected delegates, along with RCOA board member Dr Melika Sheikh-Eldin, performed well as a highly effective team of advocates in Geneva. Engaging in dialogue with UNHCR about the needs of particular groups of neglected refugees and asylum seekers, the concerns they raised included the impact of protracted displacement in camps in Africa and Asia, gender-based violence and exploitation, family reunion concerns, detention and international access to refugee status determination. UNHCR's Asia bureau deputy director Pascale Moreau and Assistant High Commissioner Erika Feller both thanked the Australian delegation for its approach to supporting refugee leadership, with Ms Moreau noting that it was rare for UNHCR to hear the voices of refugee leaders at meetings in Geneva.

UNHCR NGO Consultations

The 2010 UNHCR NGO Consultations, held in Geneva from June 29 to July 1, brought together 370 delegates from 83 countries. Of these delegates, 24 were from Australia, including eight interns from the University of New South Wales who paid their own way to Geneva to work on documentation and supporting Australian advocacy. Australian NGOs represented at the meetings included the CRR, Amnesty International, National Council of Churches, Settlement Council of Australia, AMES Victoria, Refugee and Immigration Legal Centre, Spectrum



Refugee community representatives Parsuram Sharma-Luitai, Melika Sheikh-Eldin and Deena Yako at UNHCR's annual consultations with NGOs in June 2010.

Migrant Resource Centre and Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office, all of whom worked together with RCOA under the banner of the Australian Refugee Rights Alliance.

The consultations focused on the theme "National Partners: Providers of First Resort", with some focus on UNHCR's relationship with its NGO implementing partners. The consultations also provided much useful discussion on urban refugees, internally displaced persons, statelessness, issues of xenophobia, alternatives to immigration detention and refugee issues by region. Highlights of the gathering included a side meeting on the rights of refugee women presented by CRR and Australia's refugee community delegates and a discussion of issues of xenophobia.

Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement

RCOA CEO Paul Power was one of four Australian NGO representatives to attend the 2010 Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement (ATCR) in Geneva from July 6 to 8. Other NGO representatives in attendance were Paris Aristotle (Foundation House), Dr Melika Sheikh-Eldin (AMES Victoria) and Gail Ker (Settlement Council of Australia). The ATCR brought together 85 government representatives from 32 countries, 47 NGO representatives, 71 UNHCR staff and 11 other inter-government organisational representatives. The meeting, which was coordinated by the Swedish Government and Caritas Sweden, had useful discussion and feedback on resettlement needs by region of the world, integrating protection into settlement practices, and the concept of "protection sensitive migration" as a complementary solution.

The overarching theme of the meeting was "Global Resettlement Needs: 10 of 100 resettled", which drew attention to the fact that only 10% of the refugees identified by UNHCR as being in priority need of resettlement actually find resettlement places. Unfortunately, an attempt to push discussion about the need for governments to commit to more resettlement did not result in any additional commitments being made at the meeting.

Information and community education

Refugee Week

Refugee Week 2010 was celebrated from Sunday 20 June to Saturday 26 June, to coincide with the international celebration of World Refugee Day on June 20. The 2009 Refugee Week theme, "Freedom from Fear", was retained for the 2010 event and will remain the theme until 2011.

Major launches were held in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide and more than 190 local events took place, making Refugee Week 2010 our most successful celebration to date. Events included festivals, film and documentary screenings, music, dance, theatre, art and photographic exhibitions, sporting events, personal stories and speeches, public seminars, information and training sessions, rallies, book launches, a prayer vigil, tree planting, fund raising events and even river and harbour cruises.

In Sydney, RCOA joined forces with Friends of STARTTS and the Australian Refugee Film Festival for our biggest Refugee Week launch event to date. The launch was held on 19 June at the Pitt Street Uniting Church in Sydney, and included the presentation of the 2010 Refugee Humanitarian Awards, a screening of the 2010 Refugee Film Festival, the Dario Palermo Refugee Art Exhibition and a selection from the NSW AMES Freedom from Fear photography exhibition. NSW Minister for Citizenship, John Hatzistergos, was guest speaker at the event and City of Sydney Councillor Phillip Black presented the Humanitarian Awards.

In Melbourne, Refugee Week was launched at a press conference event on Monday 21 June at Victorian Parliament House. Guest speakers included RCOA President John Gibson; Pino Migliorino, Chair of the Federation of Ethnic Communities

Council of Australia (FECCA); Malcolm Fraser, former Prime Minister of Australia; Michael Gawenda, former refugee and former editor of *The Age*; and former refugee Nyadol Nyuon.

In preparation for the celebration, RCOA further developed the Refugee Week Resource Kit, designed to help event organisers and teachers prepare for Refugee Week, by expanding the list of recommended resources and including a brand new section on myths and facts about refugees and asylum seekers. We also coordinated a national online events calendar and produced a Refugee Week poster highlighting the theme "Freedom from Fear", distributing 8,500 copies throughout the country.

RCOA also significantly expanded the Refugee Week Ambassadors initiative, recruiting 16 new Ambassadors to act as spokespeople for the celebration. Among our Ambassadors for 2010 were prominent Australians from refugee backgrounds including scientist Dr Karl Kruszelnicki, academics Dennis Altman and Eva Cox and actors Tony Le-Nguyen and Henri Szeps, as well as prominent refugee advocates such as former NSW Attorney-General John Dowd and artist Kate Durham.

Sponsors of Refugee Week 2010 included the Victorian Multicultural Commission (principal sponsor), AMES Victoria and NSW Community Relations Commission (major sponsors), City of Sydney, NSW AMES, ACL, Leichhardt Council and Mallesons Stephen Jaques.

Monthly e-bulletin

The Refugee Council continues to inform members and the general public through a range of communications. We provide free access to our own research and information as well as acting as a clearing house for relevant, up to date research from the wider sector.

Our communication channels include our website, a monthly e-bulletin and a quarterly newsletter. After the merger with A Just Australia, we continued with the AJA regular e-bulletin sent to many thousands of readers. The bulletins provide up to date information on refugee policy, research, opportunities to engage with refugee and asylum seeker issues in a range of ways, as well as a summary of the main media for the month. Both the RCOA and the AJA bulletins regularly receive unsolicited praise from members for the quality of the bulletins and the succinct nature of the material included. In addition to the e-bulletins, we provide quarterly newsletters sent via post to our non-email members and supporters.



Refugee Week: the Burundian choir performs at the 2010 Sydney launch of Refugee Week.

© RCOA/D. Smith.

Website

The website of the Refugee Council of Australia remains an up to date, accessible and reliable resource on matters relating to Australia's Humanitarian Program, refugee policy, research and activities and events in the sector for many individuals and organisations. Through the site's 85 web pages of information, readers were able to access all RCOA information, such as RCOA research and position papers, speeches, media releases, annual reports and submissions to Government. We also provide a range of other material, such as research materials by other organisations, an advocacy tool kit, information on current volunteering and employment opportunities, links to member organisations, information on refugee legal, advisory and support services, summaries of media coverage of local national and international policies and issues and promotions for upcoming events of relevance including seminars, celebrations and films. In 2009-10, our website received 156,310 visits (an increase of 50% on the previous year and an 87% increase on 2007-08) and 414,042 page views.

As part of the merger with A Just Australia, RCOA is now responsible for the AJA website, which has also been redesigned with the original site archived. The AJA site has a different focus, providing information about ways people can become active in promoting positive debate on refugee and asylum seeker issues.

Refugee Welcome Zones

In March 2010, to coincide with Harmony Day, Launceston City Council became the second local government area in Tasmania to be declared a Refugee Welcome Zone. Mayor of Launceston, Albert van Zetten, signed the declaration at a Music in the Park event held as part of Harmony Day celebrations. Launceston's declaration brought the total number of Refugee Welcome Zones in Australia to 73.

Public comment

Throughout 2009-10, the Refugee Council has further developed its role as a strong and credible voice on refugee and asylum seeker issues by our media work, presentations at forums and speaking events, letters to editors, opinion pieces and by playing a significant role in coordinating sector-wide public statements on refugee and asylum seeker issues.

RCOA had a significant media impact, producing 19 press releases in 2009-10. During the year, media outlets regularly approached RCOA to comment on statements from Government and Opposition MPs, including statements which tried to present the processing of valid asylum claims as resulting from "soft border control" policies. Throughout the often shrill public debate about asylum seekers arriving by boat, RCOA, through hundreds of media interviews, has been urging a thoughtful and considered approach which respects the rights of vulnerable people.

As well as our reactive work in providing commentary to existing media stories, RCOA also engages in proactive public comment. One of the clear messages from RCOA's community consultations was a strong desire for more effort to be put into challenging misleading and incorrect public statements about



Talee Kunoo, a Karen refugee from Burma, with Gay Lew Talee, a harvest hand, and Adam Ballan, owner of Ballan Farms in Werribee, Victoria. Talee Kunoo was assisted to find work through the AMES Labour Harvest Program. © AMES 2009.

refugees and asylum seekers. With the appointment of Kate Gauthier as Communications Manager, RCOA is now able to devote more time to monitoring the media, countering negative stories, writing letters to editors and promoting the positive aspects of Australia's refugee and humanitarian program.

As well as media work, RCOA staff and board members have spoken at numerous events. Among public events were the Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia (FECCA) Congress in Shepparton in October 29, an ALP National Conference fringe event in Sydney in July, Murdoch University's "Racism Revisited" conference in March and events associated with Refugee Week 2010.



RCOA members

In 2009-10, RCOA had the single largest increase in its membership in the organisation's 29-year history. After the merger with AJA took effect in January 2010, RCOA invited AJA's individual members to sign up as RCOA individual members and more than 90% did so. In addition, RCOA signed up dozens of new members. Overall membership grew by 251 (or 67%) to 625 – 141 organisational members (up from 130) and 484 individual members (up from 240).

Organisational members

ACCES Services Inc, Woodridge Qld
ActionAid Australia, Camperdown NSW
Afghan Australian Development Organisation, Chadstone Vic
*Aftercare, Rozelle NSW
Ahmadiyya Muslim Association of Australia Inc, Marsden Park NSW
AMES Victoria, Melbourne Vic
Amnesty International Australia, Broadway NSW
Anglicare North Coast, Grafton NSW
Anglicare Sydney, Parramatta NSW
*Anglicare WA, Perth WA
Armidale Sanctuary Humanitarian Settlement, Armidale NSW
Association for Services to Torture and Trauma Survivors, Perth WA
Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, West Melbourne Vic
Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre, Brunswick Vic
Asylum Seekers Centre, Surry Hills NSW
Auburn Diversity Services, Auburn NSW
Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office, Canberra ACT
Australian Council for International Development, Deakin ACT
Australian Council of Trade Unions, Melbourne Vic
Australian Federation of Islamic Councils, Alexandria NSW
Australian Karen Foundation, Upper Ferntree Gully Vic
Australian Karen Organisation NSW, Guildford NSW
Australian Lutheran World Service, Albury NSW
Australian National Committee on Refugee Women, Sydney NSW
Australian Red Cross, North Melbourne Vic
Australian Refugee Association, Underdale SA
Balmain for Refugees, Balmain NSW
Benarrawa Community Development Association, Graceville Qld
Burmese Rohingya Community in Australia, Lakemba NSW
Canberra Refugee Support Inc, Weston Creek ACT
Caritas Australia, Sydney NSW
*CASE for Refugees, Perth WA
CatholicCare Sydney, Liverpool NSW
Catholic Immigration Office, Sydney NSW
Catholic Religious Australia, Annandale NSW
Centacare Tasmania, Moonah Tas
Centre for Multicultural Pastoral Care, Paddington Qld
Centre for Multicultural Youth, Carlton Vic
Centre for Refugee Research, University of New South Wales, Kensington NSW
Centrecare Incorporated, Perth WA
Coalition for Asylum Seekers Refugees and Detainees, Perth WA
Communify Qld Ltd, Bardon Qld
Companion House, O'Connor ACT
Diversitat, Geelong West Vic
Ecumenical Migration Centre (Brotherhood of St Laurence), Collingwood Vic
Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education, Homebush West NSW
Edmund Rice Centre, Mirrabooka WA
*Educational Advice for Eritrean Community in Australia, Broadmeadows Vic
Fairfield Migrant Resource Centre, Cabramatta NSW
Foundation House (Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture), Brunswick Vic
Fremantle Multicultural Centre, Fremantle WA
Friends of the Earth Australia, Fitzroy Vic
*Good Shepherd Mission and Justice, Abbotsford Vic
Gowrie Community Services (WA) Inc, Cloverdale WA
The Hills Holroyd Parramatta Migrant Resource Centre, Parramatta NSW
Horn of Africa Relief and Development Agency, Homebush West NSW
Hotham Mission Asylum Seeker Project, North Melbourne Vic
Illawarra Multicultural Services, Wollongong NSW
Immigrant Women's Speakout, Harris Park NSW
Immigration Advice and Rights Centre, Sydney NSW
International Commission of Jurists, Australian Section, Haymarket NSW
International Society for Human Rights Australia Inc, Thomastown Vic
Jesuit Refugee Service Australia, Kings Cross NSW
*Jewish Aid, Malvern Vic
Justice and Freedom for Ceylon Tamils, Dandenong Vic

Lao Community Advancement Cooperative, Cabramatta NSW

Liverpool Migrant Resource Centre, Liverpool NSW

*Liverpool Women's Health Centre, Liverpool NSW

*Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services, Bendigo Vic

*Lutheran Community Care, Kilburn SA

Macarthur Diversity Services, Campbelltown NSW

Melaleuca Refugee Centre, Nightcliff NT

Melbourne Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office, East Melbourne Vic

Mercy Works Inc, Lewisham NSW

Metro Migrant Resource Centre, Campsie NSW

Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre, Mirrabooka WA

Migrant Resource Centre Northern Tasmania, Launceston Tas

Migrant Resource Centre of South Australia, Adelaide SA

Migrant Resource Centre of Southern Tasmania, Hobart Tas

*Milpera State High School, Chelmer Qld

Missionaries of the Sacred Heart Justice and Peace Centre, Erskineville NSW

Multicultural Development Association Inc, South Brisbane Qld

Multicultural Information Network Service, Gympie Qld

Multicultural Services Centre of WA, North Perth WA

National Council of Churches in Australia – Act for Peace (Christian World Service), Sydney NSW

*Nepean Migrant Access, St Marys NSW

New Hope Foundation, Prahran Vic

*North Yarra Community Health, Fitzroy Vic

Northern Settlement Services, Hamilton NSW

NSW Community Relations Commission, Sydney South NSW

NSW Refugee Health Service, Liverpool NSW

NSW Teachers Federation, Surry Hills NSW

Oromia Support Group in Australia, Noble Park Vic

Oromo Relief Association, Noble Park Vic

Oxfam Australia, Carlton Vic

Pax Christi Australia (NSW) Inc, South Sydney NSW

Pratt Family Foundation, Southbank Vic

ProEmpowerment International, Yeronga Qld

Queanbeyan Multilingual Centre, Queanbeyan NSW

Queensland African Communities Council, Yeronga Qld

Queensland Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma, Yeronga Qld

Refugee Advice and Casework Service, Sydney NSW

Refugee and Immigration Legal Centre, Fitzroy Vic

Refugee and Immigration Legal Service, West End Qld

Refugee Claimants Support Centre, Windsor Qld

Refugee Health Queensland, Woolloongabba Qld

Romero Centre, Buranda Qld

Salvation Army, Sydney NSW

Sanctuary Refugee Foundation, Coffs Harbour NSW

Save The Children Australia, Fitzroy Vic

SCALES Community Legal Centre, Rockingham WA

Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors, Fairfield NSW

Sisters of Charity, Bondi Junction NSW

Sisters of St Joseph of California, Sans Souci NSW

The Smith Family Community Settlement Service Scheme, Burwood NSW

Somali Australian Development Organisation Ltd, Moorooka Qld

South Australian Refugee Health Network, Bedford Park SA

South Eastern Region Migrant Resource Centre, Dandenong Vic

Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre, Preston Vic

Springvale Community Aid and Advice Bureau, Springvale Vic

St Bede's Social Justice Group, Braidwood NSW

St George Migrant Resource Centre, Rockdale NSW

St George Youth Services, Rockdale NSW

St Vincent de Paul Society, Deakin ACT

Strategic Community Assistance to Refugee Families, Wollongong NSW

Sudanese Online Research Association and Sudanese Australian Integrated Learning Program, Melbourne Vic

Survivors of Torture and Trauma Assistance and Rehabilitation Service, Bowden SA

Sydney Multicultural Community Services, Daceyville NSW

SydWest Multicultural Services Inc, Blacktown NSW

Toowoomba Refugee and Migrant Support Service, Toowoomba Qld

Townsville Multicultural Support Group, Aitkenvale Qld

Uniting Care Cutting Edge, Shepparton Vic

Uniting Church in Australia - Queensland Synod, Brisbane Qld

Uniting Church National Assembly, Sydney South NSW

Uniting Justice Australia, Sydney South NSW

Victorian Arabic Social Services, Broadmeadows Vic

Victorian Multi Ethnic Slavic Welfare Association, Melbourne Vic

Victorian Multicultural Commission, Melbourne Vic

*Werribee Community and Education Centre, Werribee Vic

Western Sydney Community Forum, Parramatta NSW

*Whittlesea Community Connections, Epping Vic

* New member in 2009-10

Individual members

- Maureen Adamson
 Joan Addison
 *Ian Abbott
 Susan Allender
 Dennis Altman
 James Altman
 Ian Anderson
 Robyn Andrew
 Chris Ansted
 Brian and Maureen Arnott
 Humphrey Arundel
 *John Ball
 Gene Banducci
 Glen Barclay
 *Helen Barnes
 Rebecca-Lea Barnett
 Petrina Barson
 Andrew Bartlett
 Peter Bateman
 *Lawrie Beilin
 Molly Bennetts
 John Bester
 Ross Betts
 Susie Bijjuh
 Gray Birch
 Wendy Birman
 David Bitel
 Eva and Ivor Bitel
 Robert Blackburn
 Philip Bliss
 John Blount
 Norah Blunden
 Elspeth Blunt
 Carol and Prof Geoffrey Bolton
 Jennifer Bourke
 *Don Bowen
 Jennifer Bowen
 Kim Boyer
 *William Branch
 Marie Brennan
 Mark Brennan
 Rosie Brennan
 John Brentnall
 Linda Brightford
 *Mary Britt
 Claire Brolan
 Jill Brook
 Nell Brown
 Katherine Brown
 Patricia Brush
 Jennifer Bryce
 Donald Buchanan
 *Dominique Buchholz
 Jean Burke
 Robin Burns
 Vanessa Burns
 Waldo Bushman
 Angela Byrne
 Alison Caddick
 Janet Callen
 Anne Campbell
 Rosemary Campbell
 Carolyn Carter
 *Lucy Carter
 *Patrick Carter
 Chris Cartledge
 Vivienne Cass
 Janet Castle
 William Castleden
 Philippa and Bernard Catchpole
 *Sonia Caton
 Kathleen Cavanagh
 Mary Chan
 Robin Chapple
 I-Hao Cheng
 Neha Chhatbar
 Ros and Glen Chittleborough
 *Denise Christensen
 Janet Christensen
 Carmel Clark
 Colin and Kaleb Clark
 John Clark
 Sandy Clark
 Val Clark
 Lesley Clarke
 Dean Clift
 June Close
 Bob Cochrane
 *Christine Coghill
 Bernard Collaery
 Julie Colley
 Dorothy Collings
 Cath Connor
 Mary Considine
 Lionel Conyer
 Debbie Coombs
 Bernard Cooney
 Cliff and Margaret Coote
 Rosemary Cork
 Doris Cornford
 Sue Course
 *Karan Courtney
 Peter and Linda Crawford
 Jenny and Neville Crew
 John and Ruth Croall
 Jon and Tanya Crothers
 Aileen Crowe
 Aileen Cryle
 Ann Curthoys
 Jenny Czulak Riley
 Hilary Da Costa
 Mary Daley
 Helen Dalton
 Quynh Dao
 *Stephen Davies
 John Davy
 Filomina D'Cruz
 Carol De Berry
 Sky de Jersey
 Mary Justine de Merindol
 Nancy Deans
 Jillian Dellit
 Gladys Demissie
 Lorelle Denham
 Paul Desmond
 Mary-Louise Deveson
 *Celine Di Lauro
 Susan Dikeman
 Reneike Doddridge
 John Dowd AO QC
 Marion J Downe
 Graeme Draper
 James Drysdale
 Ann Duffy
 Virginia Duigan
 Patricia Dunn
 *Helen Dunstan
 John and Robyn Durack
 *Sandra Dureau
 K J Durkin
 Judith Dwyer
 Rosemary Elbery
 Marie Emerson-Gill
 *Richard Evans
 Ruth Farmer
 Helen Fenbury
 Barbara Ferguson
 Derek Fielding
 Melissa Fitzgibbon
 Jane Flecknoe
 Jan Fleming
 *Mary Fogarty
 Claire Foley
 *Yanoula Fouras
 Christopher Fraser
 Malcolm Fraser
 Ron Fraser
 Lois Frederick
 *Jade Friend
 Colin and Bev Fryer
 Cindy Gallois
 *Samantha Gardiner
 Marcela Garrett
 David Garrioch
 Cath Garvan
 Nancy Gaston
 Rachael Gavarotto
 Murray Geddes
 *Joel Gedeon
 Peter Gerrand
 Anne Gibbins
 John Gibson
 Mary Gilchrist
 *Chris Golding
 Sharon Goldschmidt
 Andrea Goldsmith
 Joan Good
 John Raymond Goodlass
 Diane Gosden
 Keren Gould
 *Sunili Govinnage
 Janet Grevillea
 Pauline Griffin
 *Saraswathi Griffiths-Chandram
 *Darryl Grigg
 Michael Grimes
 Valerie Grogan AM
 *Lesly Gunaratnam
 Bob Gunter
 *Michael Gynn
 Bernadette and Martin Haagen
 Ruth and David Haig
 Cathie Halliday
 Deborah Hambleton
 *Amara Hamid
 Doug Harold
 *Martin Harris
 Andrew Harrison
 Doris Hart
 Selva Hassan
 *M. Hassan Hassani
 Paul Henning
 Marguerite Heppell
 Lawry Herron
 *Ruth Hertan
 John Highfield
 Dianne Hiles
 Jan Ho
 Lydia Ho
 Bruce Hogben
 Patrick Hollingsworth
 Gabrielle Holly
 Richard Home
 Sally Hopkins
 *Jim Horsley
 Patricia Horsley
 Matthew Howard
 Peter and Helen Hoy
 Rosemary Hudson Miller
 Andrew Hugh
 Geraldine Hughes
 Cynthia Hughes
 Peter and Julia Hutten
 Doreen Hyder
 Catharine Hydon
 Eleanor Jacka
 Elizabeth Jacka
 Norman James
 Barbara Jefferson
 Kate Jeffery
 Jean John
 Gareth Johnson
 Gillian Johnson
 Heather Johnson
 Marie Johnson
 Lyn Jones
 Robin Jones
 Ann-Mari Jordens
 Lee Joyce
 Jon Jureidini
 Ulrike Kalthaus
 Adama Kamara
 Maureen and Peter Kanowski

Brian Kearney
 Antigone Kefala
 *Graham Keil
 *Catherine Kelly
 Edwina Kempe
 *Pinthinee Khluiprasert
 Gaik Khong
 Julie Kimber
 Denis Klein
 *Maree Klemm
 Susan Kneebone
 Graham Knell
 Rodney Knock
 Tenneh Kpaka
 Gerald Krag
 Eh Soe Kyat Oo
 Mark Lack
 Richard Lampert
 Daphne Lascaris
 Monika Law
 Patricia Lawrence
 Natasha Layton
 Anne Layton-Bennett
 Marion Le
 Martin and Patricia Lea
 Joan Lea
 Amy Lees
 Richard Lefroy
 Pamela Lemoine
 Beth Lewis
 Dianne Liddell
 Helen Light
 Kevin Liston
 Penelope Little
 David Lloyd
 Genevieve Lloyd
 Annmarie Lochery
 Nance Loney
 Kathleen Luchetti
 *Andrew Lynch
 Joan Lynn
 *Oliver Maboreke
 Beatrice MacFarlane
 Stephen Macfarlane
 Joan MacLagan
 Mark Madden
 *Donna Maegraith
 Kirsty Magarey
 William Maley
 Nan Manefield
 Richard and Janet Mansfield
 Julie Marcus
 Sarah Mares
 John Marlton
 Vicky Marquis
 Patricia Mather
 Elizabeth and Michael Mathew
 Robyn Mathison
 Margaret Matthews
 Thomas Mautner
 Elaine Mayer
 Alison McDougall

Gay McAuley
 Marilyn McBriar
 Margaret McCaskill
 Sandra McCullough
 Maureen Angela McDonagh
 *Jan McDonald
 John McLean
 Ian and Lyndell McMartin
 Scott McQuire
 Margaret Mein
 John Menadue AO
 Andrea Mennella
 Susan Metcalfe
 Crys Mills
 Esther Missingham
 *Merle Mitchell
 Grant Mitchell
 Ian and Zeldia Mitchell
 Margaret Molan
 *Frances Moloney
 Paul Molony
 Bette and Milton Moon
 Peter Morgan
 Barbara J Morison
 Alan Morschel
 Anne Moten
 *W. Dennis Mulvihill
 Kerry Murphy
 *Amy Nethery
 John Nettle
 *Philip Newman
 Coralie Nichols
 Emma Nicholson
 *Graham Nicoll
 Mollie Nixon
 Trevor Nolan
 Penny Noonan
 *Noel O'Brien
 Lorraine O'Brien
 Carmel O'Dwyer
 *Leanne O'Neill
 *Stuart O'Rourke
 Mahn Orlando
 Fortunee Ovidia
 *Christine Palomo
 *Liana Papoutsis
 John and Alison Pardoe
 Gwenda Patton
 Michael Pearce
 *Michael Pegg
 Jennifer Perry
 Jonathan Persse
 Eric and Lorraine Persson
 Mairi Petersen
 *Madalina Phillips
 Melissa Phillips
 Patricia and Walter Phillips
 Narelle Phipps
 Paula Pilkington
 Janice Pinder
 *Brent Plowright
 Cathy Preston-Thomas

Peta Price
 Elizabeth Price
 Susanne Provis
 *Susan Quin
 Sheila Quonoey
 Malcolm Ramage
 Shanti Raman
 Nola Randall-Mohk
 Mark Raper
 Geraldine Read
 *Joyce Rebeiro
 *Amanda Reid-Young
 Bronia and Neil Renison
 Jill Riddell
 *Lisa Roberts
 Sheridan Roberts
 John Roberts
 Beth Robertson
 Gabrielle Rose
 Marion Rosetzky
 Peter Rouw
 Gillian Rubinstein
 Joanne Russell
 John and Anne Russell
 Peter Sainsbury
 Wayne Sanderson
 Nati Sangiau
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 Dorothy Scott
 Coral Seaborn
 *Deborah Shaw
 Linda Shaw
 Susan Sheridan
 Nizza Siano
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 Keith Simpson-Lyttle
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 *Kevin Smith
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 Erika Stahr
 Gary Steadman
 *Frederika Steen
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 Robyn Sterrett
 Don Stokes
 Jenny Stonier
 Jennifer Strauss
 Bill and Glen Stringer
 Catherine Stubberfield
 *Susan Sullivan
 Keith Suter
 *Bill Swale
 Ronald Swanson
 *Liz Sweaney
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Valerie Taylor
 Colin Telfer
 Michele Thistlewaite-Di Lauro
 Clare Thompson
 Janet Thompson
 Margaret Thorsborne
 Margaret Tonkin
 Brigid Trenerry
 Jack Trezise
 Ken Tunnah
 Jeffrey Turnbull
 Helen Tweeddale
 Marina Tyndale-Biscoe
 Frances Valentine
 Lina Varon
 Ruja Varon
 *Bala Vigneswaran
 *Joel Vincent
 *Penny Vine
 Ramona Vlaar
 Rohan Vora
 Yoland Wadsworth
 Eileen Wahab
 Virginia Walker
 Sheila Walkerden
 Elizabeth Walpole
 *Jennifer Wantoch-Smith
 Shirley Warland
 Renate Watkinson
 Gill Watson
 Linda Watson
 *Tim Watson
 Josephine Weekley
 Elizabeth Wellington
 David Wells
 Richard Whiting
 *Vanessa Whittington
 Vicki Wighton
 Bill and Deb Wiglesworth
 *Kay Williams
 Helen M Williams
 Jill Williams
 *Robert Wilson
 *Robin and Tony Wilson
 Marion and Gratton Wilson
 *Helen Wiltshire
 Sylvia Winton
 Bishop Clyde and
 Mrs Margaret Joan Wood
 Kath Wray
 *Martin Wright
 Peter Yeldham
 Anne Yuille
 Anne Zevis
 Roxana Zulfacar
 *Dewi-Inala Zulkefli

** New member in 2009-10
 (Former AJA members classified as
 existing members)*



Support for our work

Summary of income

RCOA relies on support from a diverse range of sources to maintain its work. In 2009-10, our income came from:

Donations and memberships	\$120,615	23%
Core funding from Federal Government	\$120,000	23%
Grants from non-government sources	\$106,805	21%
Federal Government contracts	\$81,816	16%
State and local government grants	\$49,000	9%
Consultancies	\$35,167	7%
Interest and other income	\$4,780	1%
TOTAL	\$518,184	

Grants, contracts and consultancies

Apart from core funding, the main grants, contracts and consultancies received by RCOA during 2009-10 were from:

- Sidney Myer Fund (\$82,000) for the development of RCOA's networks in refugee settlement policy and international refugee policy;
- Department of Immigration and Citizenship (\$72,705) for the community consultation and submission on Australia's 2010-11 Refugee and Humanitarian Intake;
- International Organisation for Migration (\$35,167) for the Australian Cultural Orientation Program's exchange with settlement service providers;
- NSW Youth Ministry (\$20,000) for research on post-compulsory education options for refugee young people;
- Victorian Multicultural Commission (\$20,000) for coordination and promotion of Refugee Week in Victoria.

- Department of Immigration and Citizenship (\$9,112) to conduct research into issues to be considered for the finalisation of the DIAC gender guidelines;

Other financial supporters of Refugee Week 2010 included AMES Victoria (\$5000), NSW Community Relations Commission (\$5000), City of Sydney (\$3000), NSW AMES (\$2500), ACL (\$2500), Leichhardt Council (\$1000) and Mallesons Stephen Jaques (\$500). The travel of refugee community representatives to UNHCR's global NGO Consultations in Geneva was supported by Fairfield Migrant Resource Centre (\$5,305), Oxfam Australia (\$5,000), Caritas Australia (\$3,000), Amnesty International Australia (\$1,000) and Australian Council for International Development (\$500).

Donations and memberships

RCOA's donation income in 2009-10 was greatly enhanced by the merger with A Just Australia, growing by 86%. Membership income also grew, with continued growth in organisation membership and a large jump in individual membership.

Continued public financial support is vital to the organisation maintaining its role and independence. Tax-deductible donations to the Council, or through the Australian Refugee Foundation, are always gratefully received. For more information about donations, contact our Sydney or Melbourne offices or visit our website - www.refugeecouncil.org.au

The Australian Refugee Foundation

The Australian Refugee Foundation was established in 1997 to support the work of the Refugee Council and to build the organisation's capacity to act as an independent voice for refugees. The Foundation's aim is to secure and manage funds so as to maximise the long-term benefits to RCOA and is accomplished under the supervision of its Board of Trustees. Over the past five years, the Foundation has been RCOA's single largest source of income, contributing \$425,261.

The Australian Refugee Foundation is registered with the Australian Taxation Office as a charitable organisation and gifts of \$2 and over are tax deductible. Members and friends of the Council are encouraged to remember the Foundation when considering donations and when making plans for wills and bequests. Further information about the Australian Refugee Foundation can be obtained from the Refugee Council.

Patrons:

Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO

Rt Hon Sir Zelman Cowan AK GCMG GCVO

Rt Hon Malcolm Fraser AC CH

Trustees during 2009-10

John Gibson (Convenor)

Maureen Adamson

Lionel Conyer

Virginia Gordon

Tuong Quang Luu AO

Elektra Spathopoulos

financial report

Refugee Council of Australia Inc – ABN 87 956 673 083

Profit and loss account – for the year ended 30 June 2010

	2010 \$	2009 \$
Income		
Consultancies	44,279	33,470
DIAC contracts	192,705	96,431
Donations from Australian Refugee Foundation	-	16,943
Interest income	3,557	9,505
Member subscriptions	34,002	31,591
Grants	155,805	235,574
Donations	86,613	43,952
Other income	1,223	810
Total income	518,184	468,276
Less: Expenses		
Auditors remuneration	2,382	2,000
Bank charges	2,221	1,156
Board expenses	14,096	7,467
Computer expenses	3,209	7,555
Consulting and grant direct expenses	14,207	18,336
Depreciation	3,412	3,279
Electricity and water	2,203	2,400
Insurance	3,829	1,825
Office rent	28,648	27,682
Leave pay	797	5,203
Other employee costs	-	2,298
Postage	2,170	1,709
Printing and stationery	8,411	10,415
Refugee week expenses	12,646	15,813
Seminar and conference expenses	10,565	1,380
Repairs and maintenance	919	1,832
Salaries	326,761	288,186
Subscriptions	1,894	966
Sundry expenses	2,696	2,885
Superannuation contributions	29,949	25,614
Telephone and fax	9,404	9,283
Travel expenses	7,878	11,096
Workers compensation insurance	2,472	2,004
Total Expenses	490,769	450,384
Profit before income tax	27,415	17,892

Balance sheet – 30 June 2010

	2010 \$	2009 \$
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	144,035	100,964
Trade and other receivables	27,058	5,506
Total current assets	171,093	106,470
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	5,939	9,351
Total non-current assets	5,939	9,351
Total assets	177,032	115,821
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	107,646	24,647
Provisions	18,554	17,757
Other Liabilities	-	50,000
Total current liabilities	126,200	92,404
Total liabilities	126,200	92,404
Net assets	50,832	23,417
EQUITY		
Retained earnings	50,832	23,417
Total equity	50,832	23,417

Audited financial statements

The Refugee Council of Australia accounts for 2009-10 were audited by DFK Laurence Varnay, Chartered Accountants, Sydney. The audited financial statements are available from the Refugee Council's Sydney office or online at www.refugeecouncil.org.au





Refugee Council
of Australia

How to contact the Refugee Council

Refugee Council of Australia

National Office:

Suite 4A6, 410 Elizabeth Street,
Surry Hills NSW 2010

Ph: (02) 9211 9333

Fax: (02) 9211 9288

Email: info@refugeecouncil.org.au

www.refugeecouncil.org.au

Victorian Office:

PO Box 12597, A'Beckett Street VIC 8006

Ph: (03) 9600 3302

Email: melbourne@refugeecouncil.org.au

Incorporated in ACT ABN 87 956 673 083

Donations of \$2 or more are
tax deductible.

