**Meet Minty**

Front cover: Imityaz ‘Minty’ Saberi was the first Afghan refugee to become a life saver in Australia and graciously chose to be the face of Refugee Week in 2015.

‘Minty’ was our literal poster boy for Refugee Week 2015. Now a lifesaver, Minty arrived in Australia without the ability to swim.

When he was 10, Minty’s mother and siblings followed his father who had fled the dangers of Afghanistan to find a safe place for them to live in Pakistan. But as Minty says, in Pakistan “our tribe was subject to suicide bombings and targeted killings [like in Afghanistan]. Hazara people cannot visit the cities because you are risking your lives just trying to get daily supplies.”

Minty’s father made it to Australia in a fishing boat and, when Minty was 12, his father was given permission by the Australian Government to reunite his family.

“I had this image in my head that life in Australia was going to be better with swimming pools, beaches and parks,” says Minty. “I had the image of the Opera House in my head but, to be honest safety was the one thing I was most excited for. I didn’t want to live in fear anymore. I saw a lot of violence in my childhood and that’s not a nice place to live.”

Today Minty is a volunteer lifesaver with the Edithvale Life Saving Club and works as a lifeguard at a leisure centre in Dandenong. In 2011, he received the Victorian Refugee Recognition Record, which acknowledges individuals from a refugee background and their exceptional work in the community.

“We are very lucky to live in a country like Australia, to be protected and be safe. I will never take that for granted,” says Minty. “My family have come through hardship. We have come here for safety. We don’t just live on Centrelink and a lot of people don’t know that.”
As the 2014-15 year drew to a close, UNHCR released annual statistics showing the massive scale of displacement caused by persecution and conflict – more than 59.5 million people were displaced from their homes as 2015 began, 19.5 million of them as refugees, a level higher than any point since the end of World War II.

We can choose to feel overwhelmed by these statistics or we can recognise that collectively the international community has the capacity, given apt political will and leadership, to respond effectively. The 60 million displaced people represent less than 1% of the world’s population and the proportion of people who are refugees is around 0.25%. Courage, collaboration and cooperation are critical to finding better answers.

However, the approach continued by the Australian Government is in direct contrast to what is required. Fencing ourselves off from the rest of the world is not sustainable, financially, legally or morally. Whilst the ending of drownings of asylum seekers in Australian waters is welcome, according to the UN some 53,000 people were on the move in the waters of our region in the past year. The boats have not so much been stopped as deflected elsewhere.

During 2014-15, serious allegations were constantly raised about abuse of asylum seekers by people employed in Australian-funded detention centres in Nauru and Papua New Guinea. These deeply concerning claims received an utterly inadequate response – a fact which highlighted the urgent need for transparency and accountability in these centres. The Australian Government’s decision in November 2014 to stop further resettlement of refugees from Indonesia and in May 2015 to refuse a request from Indonesia and Malaysia to assist in resettling Rohingya refugees unfortunately signalled to Australia’s neighbours that our Government has much more it could do when it comes to a serious sharing of responsibility for refugee protection.

Yet in the face of such a challenging environment, I am proud that the Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA) continued to stand up for what is right and just. In this past year, RCOA has developed an even stronger profile and voice. As the list of RCOA’s achievements for 2014-15 attests, the organisation was very active in representing the views of members and refugee communities to government, international agencies and the Australian public.

In 2014-15, we created more opportunities for people who have lived the refugee experience to work with us in our advocacy and public education work. We built on the “Face to Face” program in NSW and Victorian schools, expanding the number of refugee speakers to more than 20. Our international advocacy with UN agencies and international networks in Geneva in June included six Australians who have lived the refugee experience. Each was able to share detailed information about the challenges facing refugees from their countries of origin (Afghanistan, Bhutan, Eritrea and South Sudan) and provide alternative effective international responses to displacement crises. In Victoria, with the support of Victorian Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship, we developed a systematic approach to engaging refugee communities on issues of concern to them. We plan to consolidate the Refugee Communities Advocacy Network in Victoria and seek opportunities to expand it to other states.

In June, the 30th celebration of Refugee Week in Australia provided opportunities for refugee community members to share their experiences, their achievements and their hopes. Supported by 16 Refugee Week Ambassadors (13 of them former refugees), RCOA encouraged and supported 295 local events and organised official launches in two states. We greatly appreciated the support of our Refugee Week sponsors: Victorian Multicultural Commission, Settlement Services International, AMES Australia, Navitas, Multicultural NSW, NSW AMES, NSW Teachers Federation and the Salvation Army.

All the work you read about in this report has been achieved by a small and very hard-working team, led by CEO Paul Power. In 2014-15, our four full-time and six part-time staff, worked with RCOA members in all states and territories to respond to countless local, national and international issues of refugee protection. I want to thank them for their hard work and dedication. I also thank the members of our Board for their support and the guidance of RCOA in the face of the challenges of the past year.

The most heartening aspect of RCOA’s work in 2014-15 has been the extraordinary support of concerned Australians. In May 2014, we learned that the Federal Government had cut our core funding of $140,000 per year. In response, our supporters donated $336,000 in June 2014 and another $500,685 in 2014-15 to ensure that RCOA’s strong and independent voice is not silenced. Despite the difficult political environment, we are more determined than ever to stand with the millions of Australians of all backgrounds who want our nation to respond with humanity and justice to people seeking protection from persecution.

Phil Glendenning
President
Australia’s refugee program

Australia has provided a home to more than 800,000 refugees since World War II. The contribution made by these new citizens, who came to us seeking safety and protection, has undoubtedly transformed our society for the better.

One of the most impressive illustrations of the contributions to Australia of former refugees during 2014-15 was the appointment of Hieu Van Le as Governor of South Australia. Born in Vietnam, Mr Le arrived on a refugee boat in Darwin Harbour in 1977 with his wife Lan. He studied at the University of Adelaide, qualified as an accountant and became a senior investigator and manager with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, also chairing the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission. When he assumed office as Governor on 1 September 2014, Mr Le became the first Australian of Asian heritage appointed to a vice-regal post.

The world looks to Australia for successful approaches to refugee settlement. Sadly, the charged political debate about asylum seekers too often hides the many successes of Australia’s 70-year involvement in welcoming and benefiting from the contribution of people who once were refugees.

RCOA is proud to have played a role in assisting in this success since our organisation was formed in 1981. With financial support from concerned Australians more than filling the gap left by the withdrawal of Federal Government core funding, we are now better able to promote and advocate for the rights and responsibilities of asylum seekers and refugees.

Working with members and refugee communities

Throughout 2014-15, RCOA worked with its organisational and individual members and with refugee communities on a wide range of refugee policy concerns. Among the issues raised through submissions, public statements and advocacy with government agencies were access to family reunion, appropriate education and training and sustainable employment. On these issues, RCOA worked closely with other multicultural peak bodies, with RCOA’s work with the Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia in actively opposing proposed changes to the Racial Discrimination Act being a notable example.

RCOA works with the Settlement Council of Australia to support the national Settlement Policy Network, providing an opportunity for members of both organisations to share information, plan advocacy and maintain up to date information on settlement trends and key issues. In 2014-15, five national teleconference seminars were held as part of this network – on housing solutions for refugees, the Federal Government’s longitudinal study of humanitarian entrants, English language services, racial discrimination and the role of volunteers in settlement support.

One of the highlights of the year was the development of our new Refugee Community Advocacy Network (RCAN) in Victoria. Funded with support from the Victorian Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship, RCAN aims to provide refugee communities with opportunities to discuss, prioritise and advocate on local, state, national and international issues of concern. Regional forums were held in Dandenong, Geelong and Bendigo to build a network of key refugee community representatives from diverse communities and locations across Melbourne and regional and rural areas. Throughout the year, RCOA facilitated numerous advocacy opportunities for RCAN members including meetings with decision-makers and the development of a policy paper on education issues faced by refugees and asylum seekers. In May, the inaugural RCAN Conference was held in Melbourne to provide a chance for refugee community members from around Victoria to come together, discuss issues that affect their communities and plan advocacy strategies to address these issues. While still a new network, RCAN is already contributing greatly to the effectiveness and responsiveness of RCOA’s advocacy work.

Australia’s refugee program

From October to December 2014, RCOA conducted community consultations around Australia to gather information for a submission to the Australian Government on the national Refugee and Humanitarian Program. More than 860 people participated in the 47 face-to-face consultations across all states and the ACT. The 70-page submission, which canvassed a wide range of international and national refugee policy concerns, called for an immediate restoration of the 6,250 places removed from Australia’s Refugee and Humanitarian Program in 2013 and further expansion of the program to between 25,000 and 30,000 places annually. The submission was provided to the Immigration Department in December and formally presented to the Minister at his community consultation on the humanitarian program in Sydney in April.
Research

In November, RCOA released The Home Stretch, the report of our nationwide research project into challenges and alternatives in sustainable housing for refugees and asylum seekers. Funded by the Geddes Nairn Development Fund and the Australian Communities Foundation, the research aimed to document barriers faced refugee and humanitarian entrants in finding affordable, appropriate and sustainable housing and identify strategies to assist them in overcoming these barriers. The report includes profiles of local projects which have been successful in supporting asylum seekers and people from refugee backgrounds to secure housing.

We also continued to publish profiles of innovative programs, initiatives and projects through our Bright Ideas series, releasing eight new profiles over the year. Initiatives profiled during 2014-15 included the Refugee Art Project, a collective of artists of refugee and asylum seeker background who have exhibited more than 500 artworks to the Australian public; Stepping Stones, a micro enterprise program for women of refugee and migrant backgrounds; and the International Shift at Parliament on King, a small cafe providing free hospitality training to refugees and asylum seekers.

In May, RCOA produced a comprehensive analysis of refugee-related spending in the 2015-16 Federal Budget. For the first time, RCOA participated in the Budget lock-up which enabled us to complete our analysis and issue a response within an hour of the Budget being formally announced.

Engaging with Government

The Federal Government’s decision in May 2014 to remove core funding from RCOA for 2014-15 was deeply disappointing but reflected the challenges in maintaining productive political relationships amidst the highly charged public debate on refugees and asylum seekers. Buoyed by strong financial support and countless messages of encouragement from the Australian public, RCOA worked hard to continue to advocate to government and the bureaucracy for positive outcomes for refugees. In 2014-15, RCOA worked to build relationships with new MPs at each level of Government and throughout various departments. In addition, we remained engaged formally with the consultation processes of several Federal Government agencies – including the Immigration Department’s biannual Dialogue on Humanitarian issues and its Onshore Protection Consultative Group, the Department of Social Services’ reference group for its longitudinal study of humanitarian entrants and the Department of Human Services’ National Multicultural Advisory Group.

We were pleased to support RCOA members in NSW to advocate for the NSW Government to extend public transport concessions to asylum seekers, enabling them to better access training, support and even employment – and were delighted to welcome the positive announcement in June by Premier Mike Baird. Also in June, the ACT Government declared itself a Refugee Welcome Zone, the first state or territory to do so. RCOA was honoured to be present for the announcement.

At the local government level, the support for refugees and asylum seekers has never been stronger with 125 local councils now signed up as Refugee Welcome Zones and fantastic support from councils across the country for key initiatives such as Refugee Week.
Australia’s refugee communities have access to detailed information about the protection challenges faced by asylum seekers and refugees in many countries in Asia, the Middle East and Asia – but often lack the connections necessary to raise these concerns with United Nations (UN) agencies, government bodies and international networks. RCOA works closely with these communities, gathering information, developing joint advocacy strategies and creating opportunities for refugee community representatives to meet key decision-makers. During 2014-15, RCOA supported refugee community members to advocate directly with senior UN officials in meetings in Geneva, Canberra and Sydney.

Advocating on refugee protection with UNHCR

In June and July 2015, RCOA joined over 500 NGO representatives from 90 nations in a series of meetings in Geneva involving UNHCR. The main gatherings were the 2015 UNHCR Annual Consultations with NGOs held on 1-3 July and the Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement (held from 29 June to 1 July, with government representatives from 28 resettlement nations also present). The UNHCR Standing Committee meeting on Protection was held on 24-26 June and many of the Australian delegates attended as observers. Additional discussions between Australian delegates and senior officials of UNHCR and the UN Human Rights Council were held throughout the eight days of formal meetings.


In December 2014, around 300 representatives of governments, NGOs, inter-governmental organisations and experts were invited to Geneva to participate in the UNHCR High Commissioner’s Dialogue on protection at sea. Australian civil society was represented by Paul Power of RCOA, David Manne of the Refugee and Immigration Legal Centre and Professor Susan Kneebone of Monash University. RCOA advocated the position that protection at sea is only possible if improved protection strategies on land are in place, challenging the Australian Government’s promotion of its “regional deterrence network”. The dialogue explored issues of safety at sea, the drivers of forced migration and options for international cooperation. It included some plain speaking from senior UN officials, including the High Commissioners for Refugees and Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur on Migrant Rights who called for an end to heartless policy responses to the needs of vulnerable people. Three weeks before the dialogue, RCOA hosted a public forum at the University of Melbourne on “Asylum Seekers and Protection at Sea”. Speakers included Erika Feller, the former UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection; Mustafa, a former refugee from Afghanistan; Dr

The Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN) is an umbrella body of over 230 organisations from across 26 countries, involved in advocacy, health, training and education, as depicted here in a community education centre outside Bangkok.
Antje Missbach of Monash University and Professor Michelle Foster of Melbourne Law School.

The 2014 UNHCR Executive Committee meeting took place in Geneva from 29 September to 3 October, with RCOA president Phil Glendenning and senior policy officer Lucy Morgan attending as observers. The meeting, of UNHCR’s governing body, included a high-level discussion on enhancing international cooperation, solidarity, local capacities and humanitarian action for refugees in Africa. During the general debate and session on international protection, UNHCR personnel, governments and NGOs drew attention to a range of key protection challenges, including the dramatic rise in the number of forcibly displaced people across the world; the pressures faced by countries hosting large numbers of refugees, particularly those bordering Syria; the protection issues resulting from the increase in flight by sea; and the importance of addressing the root causes of displacement.

In July 2014, RCOA CEO Paul Power visited Jordan to observe UNHCR’s response to the world’s largest current refugee crisis, created by the civil war in Syria. Paul saw the work of UNHCR staff and NGOs in Amman and the Zaatari refugee camp in northern Jordan and, with Dr Graham Thom of Amnesty International Australia, met Iraqi and Syrian refugees to learn more about the challenges they face.

Working with Asia-Pacific NGOs

Consolidating RCOA’s work with the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN), a body with more than 240 members across 26 countries, was a key focus in 2014-15. At the APRRN biennial gathering in Bangkok in September, RCOA’s CEO Paul Power was elected to chair the network’s Australia, New Zealand and Pacific working group, strengthening our ability to speak with and for refugees and asylum seekers from across the region. As a Steering Committee member of APRRN, Paul worked with the organisation on governance issues and on its advocacy on critical issues affecting the Asia-Pacific region’s 3.9 million refugees. Regional concerns include Australia’s active promotion of policies designed to deter people from seeking asylum in South East Asia.

As an example of the practical nature of this work, APRRN members were involved in highlighting the plight of up to 8,000 Rohingya left to their fate at sea in May. RCOA, with APRRN input, drafted a briefing paper calling for clear, practical action by the Australian Government to ensure the protection of people seeking asylum following untold deaths at sea and the discovery of mass graves of Rohingya in Thailand. Despite the negative response of then Prime Minister Tony Abbott, Paul Power and Tim O’Connor of RCOA met with more than 30 Parliamentarians to raise these options, conducting a media conference with Labor, Greens and Independent Parliamentarians to advance our call for action.

In August, Paul was invited to Auckland by the Refugee Council of New Zealand to participate in a refugee policy forum in the lead up to New Zealand’s national elections. Paul spoke about the role that New Zealand could play in supporting the improved protection of refugees in the Asia-Pacific region, at a forum also addressed by the New Zealand Immigration Minister and representatives of three Opposition parties. The visit consolidated RCOA’s trans-Tasman links enhanced in 2013-14. Throughout 2014-15, RCOA brought Australian and New Zealand agencies together through regular APRRN teleconferences to plan joint advocacy and to share practice on settlement support for refugees.

Refugees require durable solutions. UNHCR, the UN refugee agency, speaks of three: voluntary repatriation, integration into the community where asylum was sought or resettlement.

At end of 2014, 59.5 million people were displaced by persecution and conflict. Of this number, 19.5 million were recognised as refugees. During 2014, just 105,000 refugees (0.5%) were offered resettlement.

In 2014, Australia offered resettlement to 11,570 refugees and permanent protection to 2,780 refugees recognised through its asylum process.

Where did the most refugees come from in 2014?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Total number of refugees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>3,883,585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>2,593,368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>1,106,068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>665,954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Sudan</td>
<td>616,210</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Who hosted the most refugees in 2014?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Total number of refugees hosted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>1,587,374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>1,505,525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>1,154,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>982,027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>659,524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>35,582</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UNHCR ranked Australia 50th for hosting refugees (67th per capita and 84th relative to total national Gross Domestic Product) with 35,582 refugees.

The 14,350 refugees granted asylum or resettled by Australia in 2014 represented 0.43% of the global total of 3,368,157 refugees granted asylum or resettled during the year. By this measure, Australia’s response was 22nd overall, 27th per capita and 43rd relative to total national GDP.
seeking safety: asylum policy

This year marked a new nadir in Australia’s treatment of asylum seekers. Many thousands of people who came to Australia seeking protection and safety have been forced to endure untold misery. Sexual, psychological and physical abuse allegations have plagued the Australian run and funded offshore detention network. Onshore the system was less examined but similarly damaging with innocent people denied their freedom and ability to begin to rebuild their lives. In the face of such pain and mistreatment, RCOA continued to speak truth to power, keeping in the public conscience some of the most heinous human rights abuses.

Three independent examinations of conditions in offshore detention centres confirmed our worst fears. Sexual, physical and psychological abuse was rife and the asylum seekers and refugees were unable to achieve any justice for the crimes committed against them. RCOA marshalled new forces to the calls for a moratorium on sending asylum seekers to Nauru in response to evidence of extreme abuse and the inability of our government to provide safety and protection for people here attaining medical assistance. We also submitted input to the Moss Review, which found the story published by the Daily Telegraph and promoted by the then Minister, of child protection workers encouraging children on Nauru to self-harm, was totally unsubstantiated. Despite a Senate report, the Australian Human Rights Commission and the Government’s own Moss Review all illustrating serious cases of abuse, the culture of impunity continues.

In September, Australia formally signed an agreement with Cambodia whereby the latter will resettle refugees whose claims are processed in Nauru. RCOA spoke out repeatedly against the arrangement, highlighting Cambodia’s poor track record on refugee protection and ongoing struggles in meeting the basic needs of its own population. In 2014-15, only four refugees volunteered to resettle in Cambodia and little is known about their welfare.

The Migration and Maritime Powers Legislation Amendment (Resolving the Asylum Legacy Caseload Bill) 2014 passed late last year introduced a swathe of unprecedented punitive measures which have further undermined the protection of asylum seekers. The Minister was granted sweeping powers during maritime operations; almost all references to the Refugee Convention were removed from the Migration Act; a new fast-track processing system was introduced to stack the odds against asylum seekers who arrived by boat; and Temporary Protection Visas were resurrected, along with the new temporary Safe Haven Enterprise Visa, consigning refugees who arrive without visas to a life in limbo.

The passing of the Act also led to Government moving children off Christmas Island but this hard-fought win was quickly overshadowed by the release of the Australian Human Rights Commission Forgotten Children report, which documented the serious harm inflicted on children in Australia’s immigration detention facilities. More than 200 organisations joined us in calling for legislative changes to end the detention of children once and for all but the Australian Parliament failed to take action to prevent children from being locked up in the future.

RCOA also highlighted several instances throughout the year where the government appeared to breach its non-refoulement obligations, which prohibit the return of people to situations where they may face persecution or suffer harm. The Government continued to turn back boats carrying asylum seekers, in some cases even returning them to their country of origin without a proper assessment of their claims. RCOA raised these matters throughout the year, to the Federal Government, bureaucracy, media and to the international community including the United Nations.

Through our regular Asylum Policy Network teleconferences, we continued to gather information and coordinate responses to the many challenges faced by asylum seekers both in detention and in the community. Access to housing and education, support for Bridging Visa holders, work rights and visa cancellations were among the many issues discussed during the year.

On a more positive note, in December RCOA worked closely with the US-based Organisation for Refuge, Asylum and Migration (ORAM) International to organise training sessions in Sydney and Melbourne on working with same-sex attracted and gender diverse refugees and asylum seekers. The sessions provided an opportunity for Australian NGO staff to learn from experts in the field about strategies to support this frequently marginalised and vulnerable group of refugees.
A key role of RCOA is to keep our members informed of policy and legislative change, while raising these issues in the public sphere. Throughout 2014-15, RCOA was active in sharing information and ideas, making 62 public statements on issues of concern, engaging with the media on a daily basis, producing regular email bulletins for members and supporters and maintaining a very active presence on social media. Through public events such as Refugee Week, RCOA provides opportunities to get beyond the often negative politics and understand the personal stories of refugees and asylum seekers. RCOA presented at more than 80 seminars, conferences, network meetings and public events across the country in 2014-15, providing balanced and authoritative commentary on national and international refugee and asylum seeker issues.

Refugee Week 2015

In June 2015, RCOA coordinated the 30th annual celebration of Refugee Week, with 295 local events held around Australia. Held to coincide with World Refugee Day (June 20), Refugee Week highlights the stories, voices, experiences and contributions of refugees, providing an opportunity to increase awareness about who refugees are and why they have come to Australia. The 2015 theme of Refugee Week was “With courage let us all combine” - words taken from the second verse of Australia’s national anthem. This theme, to be retained in 2016 and 2017, connects the courage of people who have been refugees to a call for action to build a fairer society. Working in partnership with member agencies and sponsors, RCOA coordinated Refugee Week launches at Sunshine in Melbourne’s western suburbs and Warrawong in Wollongong’s southern suburbs, featuring speakers and performers of refugee background. Principal sponsors of Refugee Week 2015 were Victorian Multicultural Commission and Settlement Services International with major sponsors being AMES Australia and Navitas.

Bhutanese dancers helped launch Refugee Week 2015 in the ACT

Changing hearts: Changing Minds

The influential Face to Face education program, pioneered by RCOA in 2014, lets children in schools hear directly from people how have survived the refugee experience. These personal accounts enable primary and secondary school students to understand more about why people flee, the journey to safety and starting again in a new country. Information is also shared about the difference between an asylum seeker and a refugee and Australia’s role in the global response to refugees. Presentations can be delivered as a one-hour interactive presentation or two-hour workshop incorporating small group activities. The presentation package includes a comprehensive resource guide for teachers containing links to lesson plans, follow-up activities and further reading, as well as information on how to support and advocate for people from refugee backgrounds.

The feedback from students and community members who have participated in the program has been overwhelmingly positive. A high school student said, “I learned that refugees aren’t just faceless masses like the media portrays them; they are individuals and have stories.”

Latifa Ilham, a member of the Hazara community who arrived in Australia as a refugee, said “I am involved in the Face to Face refugee presentation with schools and the public. I truly like this program because I believe in the power of refugee storytelling. It really matters when refugee themselves tell their feelings, stories and experiences, rather than hearing through some media who has often stigmatised refugees for their own political purposes.”
our organisation

Support for our work

After the removal of our organisation’s core funding in May 2014, we were fortunate to receive generous support from the Australian community. In 2014-15, this support grew and RCOA is focused on consolidating our funding streams and seeking new opportunities to ensure the long term sustainability of RCOA’s work in support of refugees and asylum seekers. Thank you to the many people who supported our work, by donating, promoting our cause to friends and through social media, and the organisations who provided support in light of the removal of our government funding.

The $500,685 in donations received from the public was the largest amount received in RCOA’s history. In addition, RCOA’s membership reached an historic high, contributing income of $92,855. As at 30 September 2015, RCOA had 200 organisational members, 966 individual members and three life members.

Add your support

To continue RCOA’s work as an independent community voice for fair treatment of refugees and asylum seekers, we need the support of Australian individuals and organisations who share our goals; fair and humane treatment and policy for refugees and asylum seekers and a welcoming environment. Please support us now. Tax-deductible donations to RCOA are always needed and gratefully received. For more information, contact RCOA on (02) 9211 9333 or visit our website – www.refugeecouncil.org.au

Board 2014-15

Phil Glendenning – President (Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education, Sydney)
Professor William Maley AM – Vice-President (individual member, Canberra)
Ali Nur – Secretary (individual member, Darwin)
Nga Kwan – Treasurer (individual member, Sydney)
Sonia Caton – Chair (individual member, Brisbane)

Ordinary members

Lis de Vries (Australian Red Cross, Melbourne)
Dr Susan Harris-Rimmer (individual member, Canberra)
Abdul Karim Hekmat (Fairfield Migrant Resource Centre, Sydney)
Jenny Semple (Southern Migrant and Refugee Centre, Melbourne)
Dr Melika Sheikh-Eldin (AMES Australia, Melbourne)
Shayla Strapps (CASE for Refugees, Perth) (until November 2014)
Bobby Whitfield (ProEmpowerment International, Brisbane)

2014/15 RCOA Income Sources: Total $888,161

- Donations $500,685, 56%
- Memberships $92,855, 10%
- Grants from non-government organisations $111,999, 13%
- Federal Government Contracts $72,490, 8%
- Australia Refugee Foundation $60,000, 7%
- Interest and other income / $13,112, 2%
- Consultancies $37,020, 4%
- Australia Refugee Foundation $60,000, 7%

Staff 2014-15

Paul Power – Chief Executive Officer
Effie Mitchell – Manager
Rebecca Eckard – Research Coordinator
Louise Olliff – Senior Policy Officer
Lucy Morgan – Senior Policy Officer
Joyce Chia – Senior Policy Officer (from June 2015)
Asher Hirsch – Policy Officer
Andrew Williams – Communications Manager (until December 2014)
Tim O’Connor – Communications Director (from April 2015)
Rebecca Langton – Membership Officer
Eileen Wahab – Projects Coordinator
Martyn Green – Accounting Officer

Volunteers and interns 2014-15

Komi Bana
Mohammad Ali Baqiri
Wesley Bawi
Nay Chee
Georgia-Rae Cobon
Stephanie Cobon
Maya Cranitch
Lensa Dinka
Lucinda Donaldson
Riley Harrison
Arif Hazara
Latifa Hekmat
Marama Kufi
Habib Manavi
Sarah Morgan

Mustafa Najib
Saturnino Olaa
Claire Phillips
Elisabeth Pipic
Hayatullah Rahimi
Rohullah Rahimi
Sahema Saberi
Zamera Sharifffie
Erin Tandy
Bwe Thay
James Tuang
Isabelle Whittington
Sylvia Winton
Joseph Youhana
RCOA 2014-15 Achievements

- Completed 29 formal submissions to Government on issues affecting refugees, asylum seekers and Australia’s international approach
- Published reports on family reunion and housing issues for asylum seekers and refugees, three policy briefs on legislative changes and eight profiles of innovative projects
- Presented at 86 different events, raising the voice and experience of refugee and asylum seekers
- Welcomed 27 new local councils as Refugee Welcome Zones
- Coordinated Refugee Week in Australia assisting in support of 295 local events around the country
- Regularly shared up-to-date information on refugee issues to more than 10,000 newsletter subscribers
- Established the Refugee Community Advocacy Network (RCAN) in Victoria, empowering refugee community members
- Led the Australian NGO and refugee community participation in key global UNHCR meetings, on resettlement and the High Commissioner’s dialogue on protection at sea and NGO consultations
- Facilitated more than 30 teleconference meetings of RCOA meetings on key issues of asylum seeker and refugee settlement policy
- Directly engaged federal, state and local politicians in our advocacy
- Actively participated in the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network at Board level, and in regional and international advocacy
- Published 62 public statements on key and provided hundreds of interviews to local, national and international media
- Received unprecedented public financial support, with more than 3000 Australians contributing $593,500 in donations and membership fees

“RCOA is one of the most important organisations as it genuinely cares about refugees and values their voices. RCOA conducts many refugee consultations to get refugees’ ideas on different issues and then acknowledges and raises refugees’ concerns to the government and service providers. It encourages refugees to share their stories in order to raise awareness, consequently leading to more understanding and a better society. I really appreciate RCOA and its truly admirable work. Long live RCOA!”

Latifa Hekmat, Hazara community member
The journey from refugee, to detainee to pioneering surgeon

In 1999, Munjed Al Muderis was a young surgical resident working in Baghdad when a squad of Military Police marched into the operating theatre and ordered the surgical team to mutilate the ears of three busloads of army deserters. When the head of surgery refused, he was executed in front of his staff. Munjed’s choices were stark – comply and breach the medical oath ‘do no harm’, refuse and face certain death, or flee.

That day, Munjed’s life changed forever. He escaped to Indonesia, where he boarded a filthy, overcrowded refugee boat bound for Australia.

Like his fellow passengers, he hoped for a new life, free from fear and oppression, but for ten months he was incarcerated in the notorious Curtin Detention Centre in Western Australia. There he was known only by a number, locked in solitary confinement and repeatedly told to go back to Iraq.

On 26 August 2000, Munjed was finally freed. Now, 15 years later, he is one of the world’s leading osseointegration surgeons, transforming the lives of amputees with a pioneering technique that allows them to walk again.

Dr Muderis is a monthly supporter of RCOA. If you too would like to become a monthly donor, please call (02) 9211 9333 or go online www.refugeecouncil.org.au/donate
Our members and supporters

The Refugee Council of Australia gains its support from the committed work of our members and the financial and pro-bono contributions of our volunteers, interns, partners and contributors. Thank you for your wonderful contributions to a more compassionate and rights based refugee and asylum policy in our country.

We would particularly like to make special mention of Rob Keldoulis, who has made a significant and substantial contribution to the work of RCOA. Rob’s commitment has enabled us to expand our advocacy and policy work, and attain some significant wins in a difficult political environment.

Pro bono supporters

Thanks to Colin Biggers and Paisley for their generous instruction and legal support; David Pettigrew for his expert fundraising advice, Ian Mannix for his advice and support, to Gilbert and Tobin Lawyers for their strategic insight and advice.

We would also like to make special mention of Brimbank Council and Warrawong High School who were wonderful supporters in enabling the launch of Refugee Week in Victoria and NSW respectively.

Honorary life members

Professor Marie Bashir
Tuong Quang Luu
Barbara Young

2014/15 Organisational Members

Access Community Services
ActionAid Australia
Advance Diversity Services
Adventist Development and Relief Agency of Australia
Ahmadiyya Muslim Association of Australia
Aireys Inlet Rural Australians for Refugees
Alice People Services PL
AMES Australia
Amnesty International Australia
Anglican Diocese of Adelaide
Anglicare Migrant and Refugee Services, Sydney
Anglicare North Coast
Anglicare Refugee and Migrant Settlement Services, NT
Armidale Rural Australians for Refugees
Armidale Sanctuary
Association for Services to Torture and Trauma Survivors (ASeTTS)
Association for the Wellbeing of Children in Health
Assyrian Australian Association
Asylum Seeker Resource Centre
Asylum Seekers Centre
Auburn Diversity Services
Australian Afghan Hassanian Youth Association
Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office
Australian Catholic Social Justice Council
Australian Council For International Development
Australian Council of Trade Unions
Australian Education Union

Australian Karen Foundation
Australian Karen Organisation
Australian National Committee on Refugee Women
Australian Red Cross
Australian Refugee Association
Ballarat Community Health
Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council
Baptcare
Baptist Care Australia
Barnabas Relief Education and Development
Bendigo Community Health Services
Bhutanese Australian Association of South Australia
Bhutanese Organisation In Australia
B’nai B’rith Australia/New Zealand
Bridge for Asylum Seekers NSW
Brotherhood of St Laurence, Ecumenical Migration Centre
Cabramatta Community Centre
Canberra Refugee Support
Caritas Australia
Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba, Social Justice Commission
Catholic Education Office Wollongong
Catholic Justice and Peace Commission, Archdiocese of Brisbane
Catholic Religious Australia
Catholics in Coalition for Justice and Peace
Centacare Cairns
Centacare Catholic Family Services SA
Centacare Tasmania
Centacare Wagga Wagga
Centre for Multicultural Youth
Centre for Refugee Research, University of NSW
CentreCare Incorporated
ChilOut
Circassian Association of Australia
Circle of Friends Australia
Coalition for Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Detainees
Coexistence Inc.
Cohealth
Communicare
Community Migrant Resource Centre
Companion House
Compass Housing Services Queensland
Coptic International Union
Diompillor Kissia SA
Diversitat
Domestic Violence NSW Service Management
Dominican Sisters of Eastern Australia and the Solomon Islands
Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education
Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka
Ethnic Communities’ Council of Victoria
Ethnoconnect
Executive Council of Australian Jewry
FamilyCare
Fitzroy Learning Network
Foundation House (Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture)
Franciscan Friars of the Province of the Holy Spirit - JPIC Committee
Friends of HEAL Foundation
God’s Dwelling Place Bethany City Church
Granville Multicultural Community Centre
Helping Hands International Australia
Horn of Africa Relief and Development Agency (HARDA)
House of Welcome
Illawarra Multicultural Services
Immigrant Women’s Speakout
Immigration Advice and Rights Centre
Inala Community House
Institute Mission Team, Sisters of Mercy in Australia
International Commission of Jurists, Australian Section
International Society for Human Rights Australia
ISHAR Multicultural Women’s Health Centre
Islamic Relief Australia
Jesuit Refugee Service Australia
Jesuit Social Services
Josephite Community Aid
Kildonan Uniting Care
Lentara Uniting Care Asylum Seeker Program
Life Support Ministries
Life Without Barriers
Liverpool Migrant Resource Centre
Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services
Lutheran Community Care South Australia
Macarthur Diversity Services Initiative
Macedonian Australian Welfare Association of Sydney
Mandaeans Australian Community Cultural Club
Marist Sisters
Marist Youth Care
Melaleuca Refugee Centre
Melbourne Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office
Mercy Community Services SEQ
Mercy Works
Metro Assist (formerly Metro Migrant Resource Centre)
Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre
Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services of the ACT
Migrant Resource Centre (Northern Tasmania)
Migrant Resource Centre (Southern Tasmania)
Migrant Resource Centre of South Australia
Milperra State High School
Mt Druitt Ethnic Communities Agency
Multicultural Council of Tasmania
Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga
Multicultural Development Association
Multicultural NSW
Multicultural Services Centre of WA
Multicultural Youth Affairs Network NSW
MultiLink Community Services
Muslims Australia - Australian Federation of Islamic Councils
National Council for Churches in Australia
Neighbours and Friends
Nepean Migrant Access
New Hope Foundation
Northern Settlement Services
NSW Council for Civil Liberties
NSW Refugee Health Service
NSW Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors
NSW Teachers Federation
Occupational Opportunities for Refugees and Asylum Seekers
Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship
Organisation for Support to Underprivileged Children and Women of Afghanistan
Oromia Support Group in Australia
Overseas Services to Survivors of Torture and Trauma
Oxfam Australia
Pax Christi Australia (NSW)
Pratt Family Foundation
Psychiatry Research and Teaching Unit, Liverpool Hospital
Queanbeyan Rural Australians for Refugees
Queensland Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma
Refugee Advice and Casework Service
Refugee and Immigration Legal Centre
Refugee and Immigration Legal Service
Salvation Army
Sanctuary Australia Foundation
Save the Children Australia
SCALEs Community Legal Centre
Settlement Services International
Sisters of Charity of Australia
Sisters of the Good Samaritan
South Australian Refugee Health Network
Southern Ethnic Advisory and Advocacy Council
Southern Migrant and Refugee Centre
Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre
Springvale Community Aid and Advice Bureau
St Bede’s Social Justice Group
St George Youth Services
St James’ Church, King St, Sydney
St Vincent de Paul Society National Council of Australia
St Vincent de Paul Society NSW
St Vincent de Paul Society Refugee and Migrant Committee (WA)
Stand Up: Jewish Commitment to a Better World
Strategic Community Assistance to Refugee Families
Sudanese Online Research Association and Sudanese Australian Integrated Learning Program
Survivors of Torture and Trauma Assistance and Rehabilitation Service
Sydney Multicultural Community Services
SydWest Multicultural Services
TAFE Queensland English Language and Literacy Services
Tasmanian Catholic Justice and Peace Commission
The Humanitarian Group
The Mercy Foundation
The Multicultural Network
The Tasmania Opportunity
Toowoomba Refugee and Migrant Support
Townsville Multicultural Support Group
Unitarian Church of South Australia
Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod
Uniting Church National Assembly
UnitingJustice Australia
Victorian Arabic Social Services
West Wagga San Isidore Refugee Committee
Western Region Ethnic Communities Council
Whittlesea Community Connections
Wimmera Development Association
Women’s Health in the South East
World Vision Australia
World Wellness Group
Wyndham Community and Education Centre

“For us, the Refugee Council of Australia’s support and open-handedness means the organisation is an integral part of making what we do such a success in 2015 – particularly in supporting our voices on behalf of vulnerable refugee communities, enabling us to be heard where we could not have been able to reach otherwise.”

Marama Kufi, Oromia Support Group Australia.
2014/15 Individual Members

Ian Abbott
Hausi Abdul-Kanit
Larry Abel
Hala Abdou
Maureen Adamson
Joan Addison
Nicholas Adler
Clarissa Adriel
Susanna Agardy
Adrianne
Munjid Al Muderis
Rebecca Albury
Kim Alden
André Albrecht
Joan Alexander
John Algar
Jill Alder
Martin Allan
Peter Allan
Michael Allmann
Carolyn Allen
Dennis Altman
James Altman
Elizabeth Ammer
Michael Anderson
Robyn Andrew
Brett Andrews
Kate Angus
Chris Ansted
Catherine Appleton
Bill Armstrong AO
Brian Arnott
M J V Arundel
Jacqui Austin
Sunil Badami
Jean Baker
Gene Banducci
Susan Barnes
Vicki Barry
Fikry Bassiuoni
Kathryn Bates
Jan Dayl Beadle
Kate Bechet
Francesca Beddie
Molly Bennetts
Rachel Berman
Carolyn Betts
Roxy Baskett
Steven Betman
Kathryn Bates
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Gray Birch
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John Blount
Cath Blunt
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 Fiona Buchanan
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Meredith Burgess
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Alison Caddick
Stephen Cadusch
Catherine Cahill
Bernard Caissie
Donna Callaghan
Janet Callen
Anne Campbell
Eric Campbell
Jeanette Campbell
Rosemary Campbell
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William Castleden
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Mary Chan
John Chapman
Robin Chaplin
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Andrew Cheung
Neha Chhatbar
Jessica Chan
Wendy Cheung
Ros Chitlborough
Denise Chinnapa
Janet Christensen
Raffaele Cioccone
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Carmel Clark
Collin Clark
Jennifer Bourke
Don Bowen
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Val Clark
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Cath Connolly
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Lionel Conner
Debbie Conyers
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Doris Corrigan
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Margo Cosgrave
Bryon Cosgrove
Michael Couch
Sue Course
Madox Couttenay-Foster
Ingel Couttenay-Hentjes
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Aren Cuithas
Clare Culkin
Emily Cutler
Lei D’Agher
Ilaria Da Costa
Peter D’Albis
Mary Dale
Bunny Dale
Mary Dale
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Quynn Diao
Alison Darroch
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Shari Davies
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Sky de Jersey
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Gillian Dooley
Deirdre Dowe
Nicholas Dounni
Marion Downe
June and Michael Drake
Gaeme Draper
Clemence Dume
Anna Duncan
Cameron Duncan
Margot Duncan
Stella Duncan
Margaret Dunlop
Helen Dunstan
John Ducrau
Robyn Durack
Sharie Dunan
Rosemary Ellery
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Paul Ellis
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Wendy Emerton
Trudy Enks
Suzanne Entwistle
Bruce Emol
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Elen Falkenstein
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Michelle Garlick
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Jenni Gay
John Geoge
Joel Gedean
Jennifer Genion
Eva Gennerich
Simoni Gevers
Sam Giannikos
Anne Gibbons
Robin M Gibson
Alex Gilly
Pepper Gold
Michelle Goldwin
Jenny Goldberg
Jacques Goldman
Andrea Goldsmith
Joan Good
Ruth Goodrum
Bruce Goodwin
John Goonan
Renee Goossens
Anita Gordon
Jill Gordon
Frances Gosbell
Diane Gosden
Kathleen Gosch
Keren Gould
Mary Grace
Ron Grant
Stephanie Grant
Trevor Grant
Sally Grasso
Roger Greer
Charles Green
Hazel Green
Margaret Green
John Henry Greenwell
Gabriella Gresz
Janet Grey
Margaret Grey
Pauline Griffin
Danyal Grigg
Michael Greens
Valerie Grogan
Gerald Grove-White
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John Guzlar
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Megan Hale
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Cathe Halliday
Deborah Hambleton
Kym Hammond
Lana Hanley
Frances Hanna
George Hanna
Pamela Hanna
Sean Hants
Samantha Harte
Christine Harrobee-Ree
Myree Harris
Susan Harris-Rimmer
Doris Fraser
Wendy Harte
Annie E Harvey
Pereleope Harvey
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Warwick Hatton
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Kerryn Herron
Lawry Herron
Caby Hewitt
John Hugh-Jones
Dianne Hiles
Alice Hill
Matthew Hind
Kim Hinckfuss
Eric Hinder
Elizabeth Hindmarsh
Ross Hindmarsh
Meredith Hinds
Abigail Hirsch
Jan Hiss
Lydia Ho
Libby Hogarth
Brenda Holland
Steven Homolya
Patricia Hopkins
Sally Hopkins
Ivan Horak
Julia Horn
Davoren Howard
Matthew Howard
Theresa Howse
Helen Hoy
Peter Huett
Rosemary Hudson-Miller
Andrew R Hugg
Amanda Hughes
Cynthia Hughes
Geraldine Hughes
Liz Hughes-Brown
Jason Hunt
Amy Hunter
Arieta Hunter
David Hunter
Julia Hutton
Peter Hurten
Doreen Hyde
Tricia Hyde
John Ingleson
John Ingram
Katherine Ingleson
Victoria Jack
Eleanor Jacka
Elizabeth Jacka
Vesna Jadresk
Sigrid Jakob
Ivan James
Norman James
Alison Jaworski
Barbara Jefferson
Kate Jeffery
Andrew John
Gareth Johnsson
Gillian Johnsson
Marie Johnson
Lyn Jones
Robin Jones
Amanda Jordan
Gaynor Jordan
Nari-Mari Jordsen
Nicholas Jose
Brendan Joyce
Lee Joyce
Jan Jureidini
Ulle Kalthaus
Peter Kanowski
Rachael Katteri
2014-15 Research and Publications

The Migration and Maritime Powers Legislation Amendment (Resolving the Asylum Legacy Caseload) Act 2014, passed in December 2014, made sweeping changes to Australia’s processes for managing asylum seeker claims and providing protection to refugees who arrive in Australia without visas. This briefing paper summarised the key changes and their implications for people seeking protection.

The Home Stretch: Challenges and alternatives in sustainable housing for refugees and asylum seekers
The challenges faced by asylum seekers and people from refugee backgrounds in finding affordable, appropriate and sustainable housing is consistently raised as one of the primary issues affecting humanitarian entrants in Australia. This report identified strategies to assist humanitarian entrants overcome barriers and includes profiles of local projects.

Humanitarian family reunion: Perspectives from the Hazara community
The many obstacles to refugee and humanitarian entrants in Australia reuniting with their families have been consistently nominated as a fundamental concern for refugee communities in Australia. In 2014-15, RCOA conducted a small-scale research project to gather the views of representatives from the Hazara community about the impacts of these restrictions. This paper summarised the key findings from this project.

Refugee Policy Changes and Implications: Recent years have seen substantial changes to Australia’s refugee and asylum seeker policies. This briefing paper summarised the key policy changes since 2011.

SHEV options and opportunities: The rush to implement Safe Haven Enterprise Visas has created much uncertainty. This shared information about the SHEV scheme and what asylum seekers, councils, service providers, business leaders and others need to know.

Submissions and Responses 2014-15

- Submission to the Department of Immigration and Border Protection’s National Consultation on Australian Citizenship
- Submission to the Productivity Commission inquiry on the Migrant Intake into Australia
- Submission to the Attorney-General’s Department on Australia’s draft report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- Submission to the Attorney-General’s Department on Australia’s draft report to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- Submission to the Select Committee on the Recent Allegations relating to Conditions and Circumstances at the Regional Processing Centre in Nauru
- Submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee inquiry into the Migration Amendment (Strengthening Biometrics Integrity) Bill 2015
- Submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee inquiry into the Migration Amendment (Maintaining the Good Order of Immigration Detention Facilities) Bill 2015
- Submission to the Senate Community Affairs Committee inquiry into the impact on service quality, efficiency and sustainability of recent Commonwealth community service tendering processes by the Department of Social Services
- Submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee inquiry into the Australian Border Force legislation
- Submission to the United Nations Human Rights Council towards the Universal Periodic Review of Australia
- Response to the Australian Law Reform Commission’s Traditional Rights and Freedoms inquiry
- Response to the Department of Immigration and Border Protection’s discussion paper, Offshore Refugee and Humanitarian visas: Creating a simpler framework
- Submission to the Australian Human Rights Commission consultation on sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex rights
- Submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee inquiry into the Tribunals Amalgamation Bill 2014
- Submission for the Evaluation of the Adult Migrant English Program
- Submission for the Evaluation of Humanitarian Settlement Services and Complex Case Support programs
- Submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee inquiry into the Australian Citizenship and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014
- Submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee inquiry into the Migration and Maritime Powers Legislation Amendment (Resolving the Asylum Legacy Caseload Bill) 2014
- Submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee on Migration Amendment (Character and General Visa Cancellation) Bill 2014
- Submission to the United Nations Committee Against Torture on Australia’s compliance with the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- Submission on Border Fees Review
- Response to Employment Services 2015-2020 Purchasing Arrangements Exposure Draft
- Submission to the Attorney-General’s Department on Commonwealth Tribunals Reform
Refugee Council of Australia Inc – ABN 87 956 673 083

Profit and loss statement – for the year ended 30 June 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultancies</td>
<td>37,020</td>
<td>16,013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIBP Contracts</td>
<td>72,490</td>
<td>260,213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations from Australian Refugee Foundation</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>50,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest income</td>
<td>13,112</td>
<td>6,614</td>
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<tr>
<td>Member subscriptions</td>
<td>92,855</td>
<td>56,935</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>111,999</td>
<td>112,787</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>500,685</td>
<td>464,138</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td>888,161</td>
<td>966,700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Less: Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditors remuneration</td>
<td>2,100</td>
<td>2,810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank charges</td>
<td>9,521</td>
<td>5,497</td>
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<tr>
<td>Board expenses</td>
<td>6,510</td>
<td>11,970</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer expenses</td>
<td>14,224</td>
<td>21,882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consulting and grant direct expenses</td>
<td>5,490</td>
<td>7,291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>6,410</td>
<td>6,156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity and water</td>
<td>2,554</td>
<td>2,435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>1,714</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>4,193</td>
<td>3,473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office rent (Sydney and Melbourne)</td>
<td>46,295</td>
<td>31,660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leave pay</td>
<td>13,965</td>
<td>35,417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other employee costs</td>
<td>541</td>
<td>404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postage</td>
<td>8,707</td>
<td>8,087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing and stationery</td>
<td>19,652</td>
<td>9,002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct project expenses</td>
<td>18,271</td>
<td>7,325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugee Week expenses</td>
<td>6,830</td>
<td>5,878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar and conference expenses</td>
<td>1,279</td>
<td>947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repairs and maintenance</td>
<td>912</td>
<td>1,004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td>498,887</td>
<td>409,474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Training</td>
<td>2,425</td>
<td>1,449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subscriptions</td>
<td>3,383</td>
<td>2,485</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sundry expenses</td>
<td>1,680</td>
<td>2,785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superannuation contributions</td>
<td>47,394</td>
<td>37,876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone and fax</td>
<td>13,114</td>
<td>10,602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel expenses</td>
<td>28,699</td>
<td>19,345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workers compensation insurance</td>
<td>3,070</td>
<td>2,745</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td>767,820</td>
<td>647,999</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Profit before income tax</strong></td>
<td>120,341</td>
<td>318,701</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Statement of Financial Position – 30 June 2015

#### 2015 | 2014
--- | ---
$ | $

#### ASSETS

##### Current assets
- Cash and cash equivalents | $624,461 | $613,083
- Trade and other receivables | $152,515 | $19,160
- Other assets | $- | $27,396

Total current assets | $776,976 | $659,639

##### Non-current assets
- Property, plant and equipment | $4,122 | $10,532

Total non-current assets | $4,122 | $10,532

**Total assets** | **$781,098** | **$670,171**

#### LIABILITIES

##### Current liabilities
- Trade and other payables | $35,888 | $39,267
- Provisions | $41,032 | $42,081
- Other Liabilities | $40,001 | $60,000

Total current liabilities | $116,921 | $141,348

##### Non-current liabilities
- Employee benefits | $39,014 | $24,001

Total non-current liabilities | $39,014 | $24,001

**Total liabilities** | **$155,935** | **$165,349**

**Net assets** | **$625,163** | **$504,822**

#### EQUITY

##### Retained earnings
- Retained earnings | $625,163 | $504,822

**Total equity** | **$625,163** | **$504,822**

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**Audited financial statements**

The Refugee Council of Australia accounts for 2014-15 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 http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/publications/annual-reports/
Students from Regents Park participate in Auburn Council’s Refugee Camp in My Neighbourhood extravaganza, which was conducted as part of Refugee Week 2015. Auburn Council is one of 125 local government areas that have signed up to Refugee Council of Australia’s Refugee Welcome Zone initiative. For more information see: www.refugeecouncil.org.au