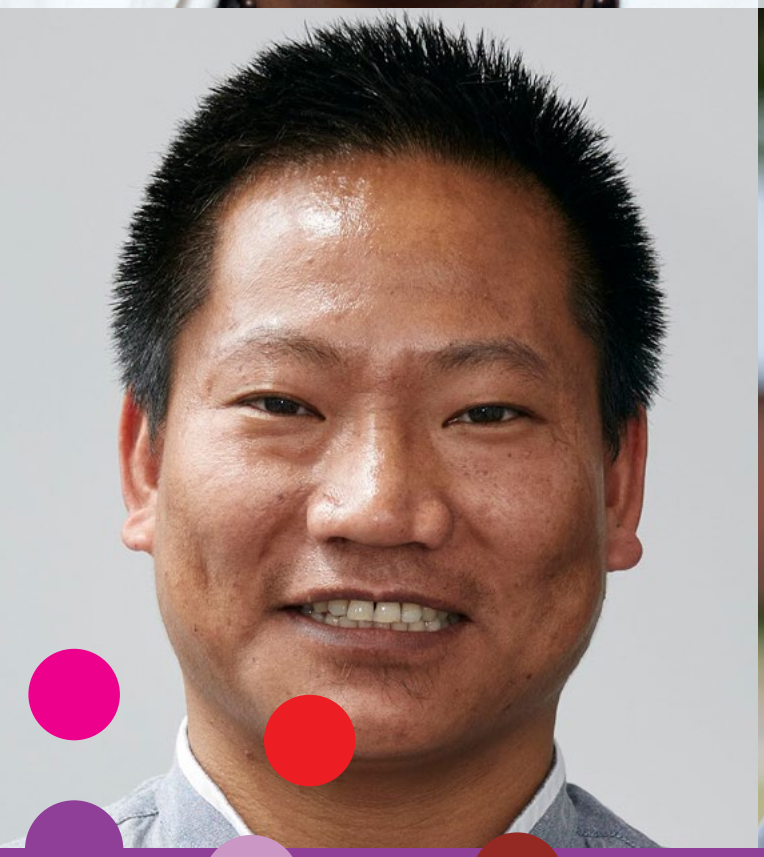





refugee council of australia annual report 2017-18

Refugee Council of Australia

www.refugeecouncil.org.au

RCOA

Our vision

For the voices of refugees to be heard, the rights of refugees to be respected, the humanity of refugees valued and the contribution of refugees celebrated.

Our purpose

To work with our members in promoting the development of humane, lawful and constructive policies towards refugees and people seeking asylum by Australian and other governments and their communities.

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this country. We pay respect to their Elders past and present and to the unique role that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples play in welcoming refugees and people seeking asylum to Australia.

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Photo: James Alcock

Front Cover Photos:Camille Nuttall, Barat Ali Batoor and Sally Tsoutas, Westen Sydney University

president's report

The 2017–18 year delivered little relief to the world's forcibly displaced people. Another 2.9 million people fled their homes, bringing the total number of displaced people to 68.5 million. Although the United Nations recognised 19.9 million of these people as refugees, just 102,800 were resettled.

Among the governments of wealthy nations, attitudes grew harder and policies more cruel. The United States cut its 2018–19 refugee resettlement cap by a whopping 70 per cent to 30,000—the lowest it's been since 1980.

As a result of the Australian Government's continued insistence on offshore processing, more than 1400 refugees and people seeking asylum continued to suffer in limbo on Nauru and Manus Island. Most of these people have been there for more than five years. Thousands more remain locked up in Indonesia. In June 2018, 26-year-old Iranian Fariborz Karami committed suicide on Nauru, becoming the twelfth person to die in an Australian offshore detention centre since 2012. Meanwhile, scores of children in detention on Nauru suffered resignation syndrome, a state of extreme listlessness, brought on by social withdrawal, often followed by a refusal to eat or drink.

Within Australia's borders, 7500 people seeking asylum faced the threat of sudden destitution when, in June 2018, the federal government slashed the Status Resolution Support Services program, which provides income support, torture trauma counselling and case management. Those people whose payments were cut had just four weeks to find employment.

Despite such devastating events, I remain optimistic. The actions of governments did not reflect the mood of their peoples. Resistance to offshore processing grew through the year, with the call for immediate evacuation of all detainees on Nauru and Manus Island increasing in momentum among our members. Moreover, we saw numerous legal interventions forcing the Australian Government to bring seriously ill children here for treatment.

At RCOA, our campaigning was unrelenting as was its impact on both parliamentary and public discourse. In June 2018, many years of passionate advocacy came to fruition when the inaugural Global Summit of Refugees took place in Geneva, bringing together refugee delegates from six continents. In February 2018, we ran the second



Photo: James Alcock

Refugee Alternatives Conference at the University of Melbourne, and in June we coordinated another successful Refugee Week, which saw hundreds of events, including the second Refugee Film Festival, celebrate the theme #WithRefugees. Meanwhile, in collaboration with Jesuit Social Services and the Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum, we continued the #FairGoForFamilies campaign, which raised awareness of the trauma caused by the long-term separation of refugee families.

In the face of an array of challenges on the political front, we stood our ground fearlessly. In October 2017, we joined forces with our members to oppose then Minister for Immigration and Border Protection Peter Dutton's proposed citizenship bill. In December, we mobilised senators to disallow an amendment to migration legislation regulations which sought to increase the Minister's power to indefinitely detain people on temporary protection visas.

I am proud of the work of everyone in the RCOA family—our committed supporters, our individual and organisational members, our volunteers, our staff and our board. We have achieved so much only because of how we work together.

Phil Glendenning
President
Refugee Council of Australia

representing and empowering refugees

As a peak body, RCOA's role is to represent our members and advocate, on their behalf, for refugees and people seeking asylum. In 2017–18, we facilitated a great variety of programs to empower refugee communities and individuals by giving them opportunities to advocate on their own behalf.

In June 2018, we made history! After years and years of passionate advocacy, all the hard work and determination came to fruition when the inaugural Global Summit of Refugees took place at the Press Club in Geneva. As the 72 refugee delegates from 27 countries sat together in the room, it was clear that refugee advocacy had changed forever. Since 2007, we had worked with Australian NGOs every year to get refugee representation at UNHCR's annual global consultations with NGOs. For years we were alone in doing so. In 2017, we worked with the Australian National Committee On Refugee Women (ANCORW) and the NSW Refugee Communities Advocacy Network to organise a seminar in Geneva on refugee self-representation. It was at this seminar that the idea of a global gathering of refugees was first suggested.

Over 12 months, RCOA and ANCORW worked with two other small organisations—Independent Diplomat and the Network for Refugee Voices—to organise the summit, raising funds to get refugee representatives to Geneva and supporting the refugee-led committee formed to lead the agenda.

Najeeba Wazefadost of ANCORW, reflecting on the summit, said it was an amazing experience to see refugee delegates from six continents coming together to share ideas. "This is the first time that refugee representatives have met on a global level to create a space for serious conversation about refugee self-representation," she said.

Mohammed Badran of Network for Refugee Voices said it was clear that things are beginning to change. "Government representatives are saying that they want to support efforts to create greater space for refugee-led networks. Doors that were closed in the past are now opening and more attention is being given to the voices of refugees."

Summit participants had discussions with government, UNHCR and NGO representatives, before participating in the three-day UNHCR NGO consultations which followed. An ongoing, international, refugee-led network is now being developed. RCOA and ANCORW also planned a one-day gathering of Asia-Pacific refugee leaders to be held in Bangkok in October 2018, coinciding with the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network's biennial conference. The call from refugee communities is clear: "Nothing about us without us."

Back at home, we consulted with people across Australia on refugee and asylum policies at dozens of meetings across the country. We talked with people who have been or are in need of protection, and with those who work with these communities. What we heard at these community meetings has formed, and continues to shape, the staple of our policy and advocacy work both here and overseas.

In February 2018, we ran the second annual Refugee Alternatives Conference, this time at the University of Melbourne. Participants included people from refugee backgrounds, academia, service provision, advocacy, policymaking, as well as other engaged individuals. We had 59 speakers and moderators, more than half of whom had lived as refugees or stateless people. They shared their inspiring stories and explored a range of issues, including displacement, protection, wellbeing, education and unity.

We are grateful for the support of all the conference sponsors:

Principal sponsors

- The University of Melbourne
- The Colin Biggers & Paisley Foundation
- VivCourt

Sponsors

- Curtin University
- Australian Red Cross

Partners

- Spectrum

Friends

- Australian Migrant Resource Centre
- Swinburne University of Technology
- Jesuit Social Services
- Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum

advocacy and campaigns



Photo: Refugee Council of Australia

Our work in several areas resulted in important wins for refugee rights in Australia.

The latter part of 2017 and first half of 2018 was a busy time for those campaigning for refugee rights in Australia, and revealed the important role that the Refugee Council of Australia plays in seeking to change Australia's inhumane, draconian policies towards refugees and people seeking asylum.

Our work in several areas resulted in important wins for refugee rights in Australia. The harmful citizenship bill being pushed by Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton was stopped as a result of our work and the work of many of our members, and in December 2017 our advocacy helped mobilise senators to disallow harsh new migration regulations which could have dramatically increased the Minister's power to indefinitely detain people on temporary protection visas.

Our #FairGoForFamilies campaign gained momentum, with the creation of a poignant video, and a ReachTEL poll commissioned with Jesuit Social Services found that two-thirds of Australians support the reunion of refugee families. In a joint delegation with Jesuit Social Services, we travelled to Canberra with an open letter to all parliamentary political parties, signed by representatives of 63 civil society organisations.

Our #EducationForAll campaign also continued to gain momentum. Since the campaign began, the governments of New South Wales, Victoria and the ACT have changed their policies so that people on temporary protection visas and safe haven enterprise visas can access vocational education courses up to diploma level. This has had a massive impact on the lives of people stranded in limbo. Universities have also continued to offer full scholarships to over 50 people to undertake degrees in a range of fields.

In another vital collaboration, we teamed up with Save The Children, Amnesty International, Welcome to Australia, Rural Australians for Refugees, and the Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce to call for a community sponsorship program, which would allow Australians to sponsor refugees living overseas.

When the Australian Government announced cuts to the Status Resolution Support Services program in June 2018, we sprang into action. Our advocacy included holding a press conference attended by a delegation of 10 national NGOs, Minister For Home Affairs Peter Dutton and several MPs; organising a meeting of people seeking asylum and politicians outside Parliament House, coordinated with the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre; and delivering a 12,000-strong petition to then Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull.

As the situation on Manus Island deteriorated in a traumatic way, with consistent international condemnation, we joined many other organisations in calling for a resolution to the crisis. We also began working with our colleagues in the sector on a campaign to get refugee and asylum seeker children and their families off Nauru. And we took our role of facilitating sector coordination to the next level by organising election strategy working groups for our priority policy areas.

Given the state of the political climate in 2017–18, our coordinating role was more important than ever.

research and policy analysis

In the past year, the Australian Government has continued with harsh measures for people seeking safety in Australia. Internationally, worsening conflicts and weakening commitments by governments, especially the US, also threaten the protection of millions of people.

19 July 2018 marked five years since Kevin Rudd announced that people would be sent to Nauru and Manus Island with no opportunity to be resettled in Australia. Despite Australia's agreement with the US to resettle up to 1250 people, progress has been very slow. 'Extreme vetting' procedures, a high rate of rejections among certain nationalities, and dramatic cuts to the US resettlement program have led to heartbreaking despair and extreme vulnerability for many of the people left stranded by Australia's continued hardline policy. Working with our member organisation the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, we published a report on the impact of offshore processing in Nauru, especially in relation to children.

Just months after the five-year anniversary, at the end of October 2017, came the horror of the forced closure of the detention centre in Manus Island, when the Australian Government withdrew essential services to the centre to force out those who had remained in the centre in fear for their safety.

The scale of the mental health issues among people sent to Nauru and Papua New Guinea is overwhelming the local systems, which are not set up to deal with such highly vulnerable people. Yet, ever-increasing restrictions on the transfer of people to Australia have meant it is harder than ever for people to get the medical treatment they need, and those who do are routinely separated from their family.

More than 400 people have been transferred from Nauru and Manus Island to Australia, but they live in a kind of limbo, with the fear that they will be returned offshore, and with the risk that they will lose their chance to be resettled in the US. Many of them have also been thrust into destitution by the government, forced on to bridging visas with no access to support services, and no right to work, Medicare or housing.

Neither has the situation improved for people seeking protection in Australia. Almost four years after the government promised to 'fast track' the claims of people seeking asylum in an unfair process, just over half of them have received a decision. Worse, the government then penalised them by imposing an arbitrary deadline of 1 October 2017 for them to make their claim for protection or be barred from seeking protection, forcing many of them to navigate the complex system without essential legal help.

Thanks to the passion and commitment of Australia's refugee community legal centres, who worked around the clock, assisted by hundreds of volunteers, all but 71 people managed to meet this incredibly short timeline.

In 2018, many people finally received decisions after years of waiting, with over 70 per cent of people being recognised as refugees. However, that protection is only temporary, leaving people in a state of indefinite uncertainty. Indeed, some people are already in the process of having to apply again for protection.

Government policy has also meant that people on temporary protection visas have not received real help to settle in Australia, making it much harder for them to get real jobs. Without Commonwealth subsidies, they are also effectively locked out of further education. Worse, a temporary protection visa makes it impossible for a person to reunite with their family, or even to visit them temporarily without the permission of the government. They are, however, lucky compared to those whom the government determines are not refugees. The new 'fast-tracking' process provides for a very limited form of review, and, predictably, decisions are rarely changed, at least at this stage. Thousands of people will be forced to lodge claims in court, but their first court date will be in 2018 or even 2019.

In the meantime, these people will have no income support, often they have no right to work, and sometimes they do not even have the right to live lawfully in the community. In 2018, those living in the community faced yet another man-made emergency—changes to policy resulted in many losing access to Status Resolution Support Services.

One of the brighter spots has been the release of many people from detention in Australia, especially children. However, those who are still in detention are finding it much harder, and are being kept there much longer. Visitors are finding it harder to get in to see their friends and family, and conditions on what can be brought into detention are increasingly strict and somewhat arbitrary. At the same time, those in detention are finding it harder to get out. People receiving counselling for torture and trauma are being forced to do so within detention.

The toxic debate on asylum has now resulted in increasing hostility towards resettled refugees and migrants more broadly. For example, an inquiry on migrant settlement outcomes recommended strengthening powers to cancel the visas of minors; bills to exclude newly arrived migrants from Australia's safety net are before Parliament; and both the Australian Government and the One Nation party have proposed stringent provisions for people to gain citizenship. At the same time, people seeking protection (and other migrants more generally) are experiencing prolonged delays in obtaining citizenship, compounded now by the fear that applying for citizenship may result in the cancellation of permanent visas on a variety of grounds, potentially resulting in indefinite detention or destitution for refugees.

We continue to conduct independent and collaborative research and make valuable submissions on refugee and asylum seeker issues to the government, informed by our annual community consultations with people from refugee and asylum backgrounds from across Australia.

Here is a list of the outputs for 2017–18:

Reports

- Canadian private sponsorship of refugees: Potential lessons for Australia (August 2017)
- New migration regulations increase potential for indefinite detention (November 2017)
- Not working: Experiences of refugees and migrants with Jobactive (August 2017)
- Nothing about us without us: Getting serious about refugee self-representation (August 2017)
- Report on 2017 Annual Tripartite Consultations on resettlement (August 2017)
- Report on refugee self-representation: Advocacy in Geneva 2017 (August 2017)
- Speaking up in international discussions on refugee protection: Report on Australian advocacy in Geneva 2017 (August 2017)
- The Community Support Program: Providing complementary pathways to protection or privatising the Humanitarian Program?
- Unwelcome visitors: Challenges faced by people visiting immigration detention (August 2017)
- Starving them out: How the Australian Government is forcing people seeking asylum into destitution (May 2018)
- Australian citizenship legislation amendment bill (strengthening requirements) report (April 2018)
- With empty hands: How the Australian Government is forcing people seeking asylum into destitution (June 2018)
- A platform for change: Reforming Australian refugee policy (May 2018)
- Recent changes In Australian refugee policy (July 2017)
- State of The Nation 2017: Refugees and people seeking asylum in Australia (February 2017)
- The need for constructive Australian intervention on forced displacement in Myanmar (October 2017).

Submissions

- 2018-19 Pre-Budget submission
- Briefing paper on 2017-18 Refugee and Humanitarian Program submission
- Inquiry into school to work transition
- Inquiry into the Australian Border Force Amendment (Protected Information) Bill 2017
- Inquiry into transitional arrangements for the National Disability Insurance Scheme
- Social Services Legislation Amendment (Welfare Reform) Bill 2017
- Submission on the Australian Citizenship Legislation (Strengthening Requirements) Amendment Bill 2017
- Submission on the OPCAT in Australia consultation paper
- Submission on the Settlement Engagement and Transition Support Discussion Paper
- Submission on visa simplification framework
- Submission to Inquiry on the Migration Amendment (Regulation of Migration Agents) Bill 2017 and the Migration Agents Registration Application Charge Amendment (Rates of Charge) Bill 2017
- Submission to the inquiry into Regional Development and Decentralisation
- Submission to the inquiry on Modern Slavery Act
- Submission to the Inquiry on the Migration Amendment (Prohibiting Items in Immigration Detention Facilities) Bill 2017
- Submission on ACNC review
- Submission on the Australian Citizenship Legislation Amendment (Strengthening Commitments) Bill 2018
- Submission to the inquiry into the review processes associated with visa cancellations made on criminal grounds
- Submission on the Migration Amendment (Clarification of Jurisdiction) Bill 2018
- Submission into the review of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act
- Submission on managing Australia's migration intake
- Submission on efficacy of current regulation of Australian migration agents
- Submission to the inquiry into Australian aid strategic effectiveness.
- The Community Support Program: Providing complementary pathways to protection or privatising the Humanitarian Program?

community education and awareness raising

Informing the Australian community about the plight of refugees and Australia's humanitarian obligations continued loud and strong in 2017–18.

Our Face-to-Face schools-based program was held in more than 100 schools across New South Wales and Victoria, reaching over 16,000 children and their families. Co-presented by a speaker with a refugee background and one of our representatives, the program is keeping our focus on the people with lived experience and giving them the platform to shine. Students spoke about how it was 'humanising' to hear directly from a person of refugee background and were reminded of our shared humanity and equality as people. We are grateful for the support of the Department of Premier and Cabinet's 2016-17 Community Harmony Grants Program which was implemented during the 2017–18 year, and to all the schools who participated and supported the Face-to-Face program.

In June 2018, we coordinated another successful Refugee Week, coinciding with World Refugee Day, to celebrate refugees and the positive contributions they make to Australia. Hundreds of events celebrated with the theme #WithRefugees. Refugee Week also included the second Refugee Film Festival, which featured outstanding films from around the globe and had successful events in Sydney and Melbourne. We are grateful for the support of all the sponsors of Refugee Week and the Refugee Film Festival:

Major sponsors

- City of Sydney
- City of Melbourne
- Settlement Services International

Sponsors

- Victorian Multicultural Commission
- Community Migrant Resource Centre
- NSW Teachers Federation
- STARTTS

Partners

- Amnesty International
- CORE Community Services
- Dendy Cinemas
- Federation Square
- Navitas English
- Cinema Nova
- Overseas Services to Survivors of Torture and Trauma
- Sydney Multicultural Community Services
- State Library New South Wales
- Australian Red Cross



Photo: James Alcock

Winners of the STARTTS Humanitarian Awards 2018 announced at the 2018 NSW Refugee Week Launch.

our organisation

Support for our work

During 2017-18 we have 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 people who seek asylum. The $1,571,220 in donations and memberships received from the public and our members was the largest amount received in our history.

Thank you to the many people who supported our work by donating, signing our petitions, or spreading the word on social media, and to the organisations who provided financial and pro bono support. Your commitment and generosity makes what we do possible.

Special thanks to Rob Keldoulis, VivCourt, and The Colin Biggers & Paisley Foundation for their generous support throughout the year.

Board members

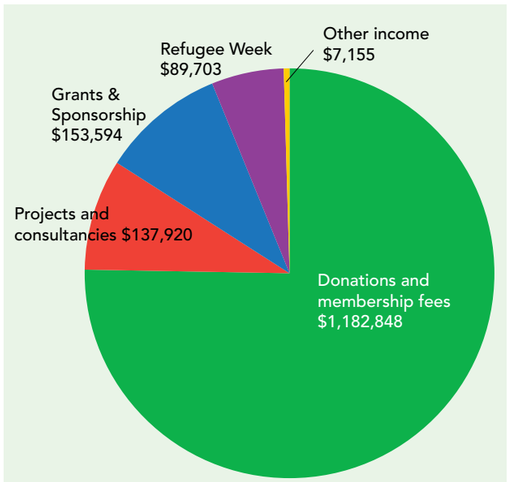
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1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018

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Tim O'Connor – Communications Director (to February 2018)
Kelly Nicholls – Communications Director (from April 2018)
Joyce Chia – Director of Policy
Effie Mitchell – General Manager (on secondment from January 2018)
Rebecca Eckard – Deputy Director of Policy (Melbourne)
Michelle Ferns – Project Officer
Martyn Green – Accounting Officer
Asher Hirsch – Senior Policy Officer
Ewan Isbister – Fundraising Strategist
Rebecca Langton – Membership Officer (to December 2017), Office manager (from January 2018)
Georgie McGrillen – Project Manager
Sahar Okhovat – Policy Officer
Louise Olliff – Policy and Community Engagement
Laura Stacey – Media and Campaigns Officer (maternity leave from December 2017)
Samuel Dariol – Media and Campaigns Officer (from November 2017)
Samara James – Refugee Week Support (April–June 2018)
Zamera Shariffie – Face-to-Face schools coordinator (to December 2017)
Shukufa Tahiri – Policy Officer
Vijhai Utheyan – Administration Assistant (to November 2017)
Rnita Dacho – Administration and Fundraising Assistant (from January 2018)
Deena Yako – Face-to-Face Schools Coordinator
Eileen Wahab – Projects Officer



our members

Organisational Members

Access Community Services Limited
Act for Peace
ActionAid Australia
Advance Diversity Services
Adventist Development and Relief Agency of Australia Ltd (ADRA Australia Ltd)
Advocacy for Oromia Association in Victoria
Africa World Books
Ahmadiyya Muslim Association of Australia
Aireys Inlet Rural Australians for Refugees
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 Inc
Australia for UNHCR
Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office
Australian Catholic Social Justice Council
Australian Clinical Psychology Association
Australian Council For International Development
Australian Council of Trade Unions
Australian Education Union (Federal Office)
Australian Education Union New South Wales -Teachers Federation Branch
Australian Karen Foundation
Australian Karen Organisation Inc
Australian Migrant Resource Centre
Australian National Committee on Refugee Women
Australian Red Cross (Victorian Office)
Australian Refugee Association Inc
Australian Western Sahara Association (NSW)
Ballarat Community Health
Baptcare
Baptistcare Incorporated
Barnabas Relief Education and Development
Bathurst Refugee Support Group
Bendigo Community Health Services
Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group
B'nai B'rith Australia/New Zealand
Bridge for Asylum Seekers NSW
Brotherhood of St Laurence, Multicultural Communities Team
Cabrini Health
Canberra Refugee Support Inc
Career Seekers
Caritas Australia
Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba, Social Justice Commission
Catholic Education Office Wollongong
Catholic Justice and Peace Commission, Archdiocese of Brisbane
Catholic Religious Australia
CatholicCare Tasmania
Catholics in Coalition for Justice & Peace
Centacare Cairns
Centacare Catholic Family Services SA
Centacare Wagga Wagga
Centre for Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Detainees
Centre for Human Rights Education, Curtin University
Centre for Multicultural Youth
Centrecare Incorporated
ChilOut
Cohealth
Communicare
Community Migrant Resource Centre
Companion House
Core Community Service
Dominican Sisters of Eastern Australia & the Solomon Islands
Eagle Arts & Vocational College
East Gippsland Asylum Seekers Support
Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education
Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka
Edmund Rice Network Tasmania
Executive Council of Australian Jewry
FamilyCare
Fitzroy Learning Network
Foundation House (Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture)
God's Dwelling Place Bethany City Church Inc
Hands of Love Inc.
Horn of Africa Relief and Development Agency (HARDA)
Host International
House of Welcome
Illawarra Multicultural Services
Immigration Advice and Rights Centre
Inala Community House
Institute of Sisters of Mercy, Australia and Papua New Guinea
Institute of the Sisters of Mercy Australia PNG
International Commission of Jurists, Australian Section
International Movement for Tamil Culture
International Society for Human Rights Australia Inc
ISHAR Multicultural Women's Health Centre
Jesuit Refugee Service Australia
Jesuit Social Services
Justice and Freedom for Ceylon Tamils
Justice for Refugees SA
Life Without Barriers
Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services
Loreto Sisters
Lutheran Community Care South Australia
Macarthur Diversity Services Initiative
Marist Sisters
MDA Ltd
Melaleuca Refugee Centre
Melbourne Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office
Mercy Community Services SEQ Ltd
Mercy Works Ltd
Metro Assist
Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre Inc
MiCare
Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services of the ACT Inc
Migrant Resource Centre (Northern Tasmania) Inc
Migrant Resource Centre (Southern Tasmania)
Montmorency Asylum Seeker Support Group
Mt Druitt Ethnic Communities Agency
Multicultural Centre for Women's Health
Multicultural Council of Tasmania
Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga
Multicultural NSW
Multicultural Services Centre of WA
Multicultural Youth Affairs Network NSW
MultiLink Community Services Inc
Murray Valley Sanctuary Refugee Group
Muslims Australia - Australian Federation of Islamic Councils
Northcott
Northern Settlement Services
NSW Council for Civil Liberties
NSW Refugee Health Service
NSW Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors
Oromia Support Group in Australia
Our Race
Overseas Services to Survivors of Torture & Trauma
Oxfam Australia
Pax Christi Australia (NSW)
Pratt Family Foundation
Quaker Service Australia
Queanbeyan Rural Australians for Refugees
Queensland Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma
Refugee Action Collective Illawarra
Refugee Advice and Casework Service
Refugee and Immigration Legal Service
Refugee Connect
Refugee Legal
Salvation Army
Salvos Legal Humanitarian
Sanctuary Australia Foundation
Save the Children Australia
SCALES Community Legal Centre
Settlement Services International
Shine Lawyers
Sisters of Charity of Australia
Sisters of the Good Samaritan NSW
Southern Migrant and Refugee Centre
Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre
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 & Sudanese Australian Integrated Learning Program
Survivors of Torture and Trauma Assistance and Rehabilitation Service
Sydney Multicultural Community Services
SydWest Multicultural Services Inc
TAFE Queensland English Language and Literacy Services
The Generous and the Grateful
The Humanitarian Group
The Mercy Foundation
The Multicultural Network
The Tasmania Opportunity
Toowoomba Refugee and Migrant Support
Townsville Multicultural Support Group
UCA WA Synod Social Justice Uniting Church in Australia
Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod
Uniting Vic. Tas
UTS Art Gallery
UTS Faculty of Law
Valerio Daniel de Simoni Association Inc
Victorian Arabic Social Services
Waverley Council
Welcome to Australia
West Wagga San Isidore Refugee Committee
Western Region Ethnic Communities Council
Western Sydney MRC
Whittlesea Community Connections
Wimmera Development Association (Wimmera Settlement Association)
Women's Health in the South East
World Vision Australia
Wyndham Community and Education Centre Inc

our members

Individual Members

Bernadette & Martin Haagen
Kivanch & Hale Mehmet
Ian Webster
Jan Webster
Brian Arnott
Maureen Arnott
John & Robyn Durack
Richard Heggie
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Jenny Golding
David Goldschmidt
Bruce Goodwin
Renee Goossens
Jill Gordon
Marina Goshevska
Adrian Graham
Stephanie Grant
Charles Green
Michael Green
Hazel Green
Lyndell Green
Gabriella Gresz

Margaret Grey
Darryl Grigg
David Gyorki
Karen Hall
Cathie Halliday
Andrea Hamann
Corey Hammond
Frances Hanna
David Harslett
Wendy Harte
Isabel Hartley
Penelope Harvey
Michael Hassan
Norma Hawkins
Debra Hayes
Joanna Hayter
Margaret Healy
Robyn Henderson
Michael Henry
Fleur Herscovitch
Margaret Hetherton
Thomas Hickey
Anne Hilton
Ammar Hindi
Simone Hoey
Libby Hogarth
Bruce Hogben
Julie Holledge
Anne Huang
John Hughes
Liz Hughes-Brown
James Humberstone
Janet Hunt
John Ingleson
John Ingram
Raymond Ingwerse
John Ireland
Barbara Jackson
Ruth Jacobs
Norman James
Ivan James
Sydney Jantos
Kate Jeffery
Liam Jensz
Xavier Joao Thimo
Gillian Johnson
Anneliese Johnson
Murray Johnson
Glen Johnston

Judith Johnston
Helen Jordan
Lee Joyce
Peter Kanowski
David Kay
Moin Kazi
Brian Kearney
Antigone Kefala
Harry Kent
Saliha Kerslake
Diana Kym
Mary Lack
Peter Lanyon
Mark Lauer
Patricia Lawrence
Sophie Leaver
Penelope Lee
Megan Lee
Pamela Lemoine
Eve Lester
David Lloyd
Maureen Long
William Lord
Eileen & Terry Lustig
Terry Lustig Kenso
Andrew Lynch
Krista Maier
William Maley
Nava Malula
Jacqueline Mandelbaum
Andrew Manton
Kesh Manton
Julie Marcus
Sarah Mares
Victoria Martin-Iverson
Neil Matheson
Pamalee Matthews
Kathryn McArdle
Michael McCray
Sandra McCullough
Ann-Maree McEwan
Bernie McKenna
Joanna McLachlan
Geoff McPherson
Uma Menon
Klaus Menzel
Michael Mersiades
Anne Mijch
Suzie Miller

Effie Mitchell
Margaret Molan
Brian Moody
Peter Moran
Tom Mosquera
Siobhan Mullany
Ashraf Naddaf
Rebecca Nash
Bao Nguyen
Emma-Kate Nicholson
Stephen Nicholson
Susan Niewand
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Maddison Norton
Marie O'Connor
Anne O'Byrne
Suzie O'Callaghan
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Meera Parish
Michelle Parker
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Layla Petherbridge
Melanie Petranovic
Melissa Phillips
Carolyn Philpott
Steven Phipps
Cathy Picone
Margaret Piper
Victoria Ponsford
Dean Pratley
Athanasia Price
George Pund
Nola Randall-Mohk
Daniel Rathbone
Mark Raue
Alex Reilly
Bronia Renison
Neil Renison
Michael Riches
Craig Ringer
Jennifer Rodgers
Alain Rondot
Tria Rooney
Margaret Rowell
Michael Rubbo

Jim Russell
Peter Sainsbury
Caristia Sanders
Wayne Sanderson
Ramdas Sankaran
Adam Santilli
Angela Saunders
Marian Sawer
Leo Schultz
Christa Schwoebel
Coral Seaborn
Jenny Semple
Natalie Shea
Domhnaill Shovlin
Nizza Siano
Jeff Siegel
Kate Simpson
Julie Simpson
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Kathleen Smith
Margaret Smith
Lotte St Clair
Cassandra Stanford
John Stark
Pippa Stearn
Ashley Stevenson
Nora Stewart
Lisa Stewart
Jennifer Strauss
Mary Stuart
Amelia Sturton
Tim Sullivan
Renae Summers
Keith Suter
Julan Suwanis
Ronald Swanson
Liz Sweaney
Kevin Sweeney
Sandra Symons
Rob Taggart
Kapil Talwar
Savitri Taylor
Molly Tebo
Jane R. Thomas
Barbara Trauer
Janis Trevaskis
Eugenia Tsoulis
Tracey Tulleners
Alison Tye

Jane Unwin
Ruja Varon
Marisa Virtich
Margaret Visbord
Qudratullah Wahidi
Mohammad Wahiduzzaman
Lesley Walker
Adrian Walker
Sheila Walkerden
Margaret Wallington
Elizabeth Walpole
Lara Wasilewski
Stuart Waters
Linda Watson
Ruby Wawn
Anthony Webster
Philippa Weiland
Andrew Whatnall
Jane Wilkinson
Deborah Willcocks
Jan Williams
Sara Wills
Barnaby Wilshier
Tony Wilson
Robin Wilson
Marianne Wiseman
Alison Woods
Yunfei Xu
Vera Yee
Joseph Youhana
Cecilia Zammit
Daniel Zu
Martha Ansara
Elizabeth Baker
Charles Body
Emma Boogaerdt
Margaret Haenke
Nockie Le
Louisa Lenz
John Marlton

Volunteers

1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018

Thanks to all our volunteers in 2017-18.
We are unable to complete all the work we do without the diligent and consistent support of our dedicated volunteers.

Special thanks go to:

Aaron Lowth
Abigail Fisher
Abigail Lewis
Alexia Gilbert
Alicia Rodriguez
Allaha Siddiqi
Amanda Ngo
Beatrice Sherwood
Bella Kosky
Caitlin Biddoph
Calum Turnbull
Charlotte Raymond
Che Johnson
Chethana Mudunna
Chris Smith
Christine Semerdjian
Cordelio Huriman
Colleen Martin
Cristina De Nicolas Izquierdo
Dikea Binch
Elif Le Son
Emily Foley
Fatima Mohammadi
Fiona Ng
Greta Binning
Hayley O'Heare
Holly Parsons
Isabella Tilley
Jack Stanosev
Jane Hosking
Jason Taylor
Jed Coppock
Jesse Mason
John Hanson
Josephine Borthwick
Kavitha Ramanthan
Kelly Lenehan
Lauren Quayle
Liam Fallon
Liam Rasmussen
Lilly Moody
Lyn Richards
Mariam Hammoud
Marie Mundler
Michael Li
Moones Mansoubi
Natasha Zeng
Nikki Dryden
Noushin Arefadib
Peggy Daroesman
Samara James
Samuel Sakama
Sherri Cui
Sitarah Mohammadi
Sonia Campanaro
Sophie Boyle
Sophie Lloyd
Tasneen Roc
Theresa Jackson
Trudy Hairs
Yasmine Hamidi

financial reports

Refugee Council of Australia Inc – ABN 87 956 673 083

Profit and Loss Account

For the Year Ended 30 June 2018

	2018 $	2017 $
Income		
Donations and membership fees	**1,182,848**	947,747
Projects and consultancies	**137,920**	149,179
Grants	**153,594**	109,892
Refugee week income	**89,703**	120,602
Other income	**7,155**	32,726
Total income	**1,571,220**	1,360,146
Less: Expenses		
Advertising	**59,380**	42,727
Audit fees	**2,100**	2,500
Bank and govt charges	**10,507**	8,410
Board expenses	**23,139**	25,270
Computer and IT expenses	**46,184**	32,946
Conference/Seminar costs	**966**	1,084
Consulting and professional fees	**1,853**	6,715
Depreciation	**12,535**	4,378
Electricity and water	**3,201**	2,822
Meeting expenses/catering	**910**	1,759
Minor equipment & furniture	**1,023**	1,737
Insurance	**4,710**	5,879
Office rent (Sydney & Melbourne)	**66,173**	65,889
Leave pay provisions	**(37,778)**	32,525
Long service leave	**11,297**	3,994
Recruitment	**954**	419
Postage & Courier	**9,628**	12,565
Printing, stationery & office supplies	**23,684**	43,308
Promotion	**20,719**	-
Project expenses	**177,626**	198,521
Publications, books & DVDs	**1,019**	90
Repairs and maintenance	**634**	248
Salaries	**1,029,348**	925,004
Staff development	**5,250**	26,235
Dues & subscriptions	**2,672**	3,429
Superannuation contributions	**96,638**	87,015
Telecommunications	**17,776**	11,748
Staff Travel & Accommodation	**33,029**	52,861
Volunteer support	**422**	1,801
Workers compensation insurance	**10,922**	5,145
	1,636,521	1,607,024
Deficit for the year	**(65,301)**	(246,878)

Statement of Financial Position

As At 30 June 2018

	2018 $	2017 $
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	**458,370**	578,060
Trade and other receivables	**175,878**	131,904
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	**634,248**	709,964
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	**25,480**	26,306
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	**25,480**	26,306
TOTAL ASSETS	**659,728**	736,270
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	**75,535**	47,553
Employee benefits	**56,850**	94,628
Other financial liabilities	**37,982**	50,724
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	**170,367**	192,905
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Employee benefits	**51,820**	40,523
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	**51,820**	40,523
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**222,187**	233,428
NET ASSETS	**437,541**	502,842
EQUITY		
Retained earnings	**437,541**	502,842
TOTAL EQUITY	**437,541**	502,842

Audited financial statements

The Refugee Council of Australia's accounts for 2017-18 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



Photo: Barat Ali Batoor

Refugee Council of Australia

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