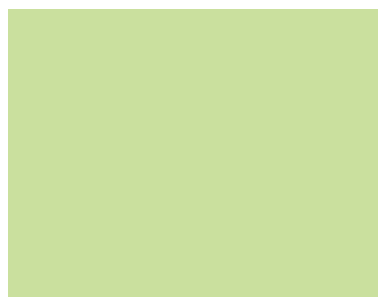
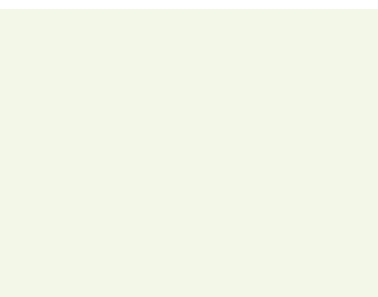
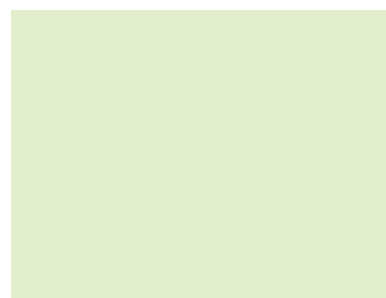
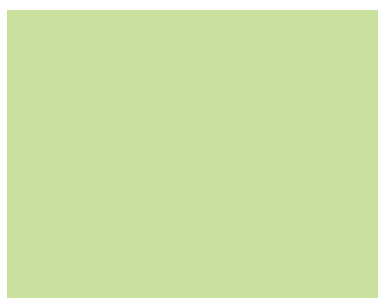


asylum seekers centre
of new south wales



Asylum Seekers Centre of New South Wales

Annual Report 2010-2011

Contents



Asylum Seekers Centre of New South Wales 2010-2011 Annual Report	1
Table of Contents	2
Our vision Our mission Our core values	3
Chairman's report	4
Director's Report	5
About the Asylum Seekers Centre	6
Our Patrons and Board	8
Our Clients	9
Overview of our programs	13
Casework	15
Health Services	17
Employment	19
Volunteer Program	21
Fundraising and Communications	24
Financial	

Our Vision

Our mission, Our core values

Our vision

Asylum seekers are welcomed to Australia and afforded a dignified, meaningful and safe existence pending the fair, transparent and expeditious resolution of their claims.

Our mission

To provide a welcoming environment and practical support for community-based asylum seekers residing in NSW, while building community support and pursuing social justice outcomes for asylum seekers.

Our core values

- > defence of human rights
- > pursuit of social justice
- > respect
- > empowerment
- > integrity
- > teamwork

Chairperson's report

Garry Rothwell

On behalf of the Board of the Asylum Seekers Centre of New South Wales (ASC), I present this year's Annual Report.

Firstly, I take this opportunity to thank the staff and volunteers of the ASC for their ongoing commitment and dedication to the cause of asylum seekers. It has been a very volatile period politically in terms of asylum seeker policy and the stresses imposed by the indecision in the system ultimately have their impact on our clients and upon our staff.

That said, the Centre has had a very successful year, strengthening its financial position thanks to the tremendous support and encouragement we receive from a wide range of individuals, philanthropic trusts and charitable organisations. A major factor in this has been an increase in the professionalism of approach in fundraising which has been supported with pro bono assistance. A one-off funding grant of \$40,000 to the Asylum Seekers Centre from the NSW Department of Health for our Health Program was announced in March 2011. This is particularly significant, as it is the first ever State government grant to support the work of the Centre.

Our annual Quiz Night in May 2011 was again a great success thanks to compere Greig Pickhaver (alter ego HG Nelson), ably assisted by James Valentine. HG was also instrumental in bringing about the Centre's inaugural revue, "2010 - Year In the Rear", a punchy, informal look back at 2010 held at the Belvoir St Theatre. We hope to build on these events in the forthcoming year.

We have been honoured this year by John Menadue AO joining us as Patron alongside Her Excellency, Governor Marie Bashir AC. John has had a distinguished

career in the public sector, including service as Head of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet under two Prime Ministers, Ambassador to Japan and, over a period of time, Secretary of the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, Department of Special Minister of State and Department of Trade. Private sector appointments have included CEO of Qantas, Director of Telstra, Director of NSW State Rail and Chair of the Australia -Japan Foundation. John is currently Chair of the Centre for Policy Development. John's wisdom and experience are welcomed.

At the end of 2010 we undertook a Board Review with pro bono assistance, in order to measure and enhance the Board's performance. Since that review, we have introduced three new Directors: Stephen Bradley, Steven Glass and Jack Thomas - who individually and collectively bring a wealth of commercial and legal experience to the Board table. We have also introduced three sub-committees to enhance governance, assist with fundraising events and advise on advocacy positions.

These initiatives, coupled with our improved financial position and the support of specific grants, have allowed the Director to prudently expand the staff numbers and to develop some exciting new programs, including a microfinance loans scheme which will assist clients in our Employment Assistance Program to enter the workforce and take their place in Australian society.

I am immensely grateful to Prabha Gulati and her staff and to my fellow Board

members for their efforts over the year. In the past 12 months, the Centre has benefitted from the expertise of many highly experienced consultants who freely gave of their time across a broad range of disciplines in order to allow us to maintain and grow our services to clients. We are immensely grateful to each of them. To our many volunteers and financial supporters I offer heartfelt thanks on behalf of our clients. Without you we could not exist and the lives of our clients would be that much more difficult.

This has been my final term as Chair, it being appropriate to hand over to someone new with fresh vision and energy. It has been an honour for me to have served on the Board and I depart truly humbled by the dedication of those with whom I have been privileged to work. Thank you.



Garry Rothwell
Chairperson

Director's report

Prabha Gulati



The journey of the Centre in the last year has been one of growth and consolidation. We commenced the new financial year with a positive outlook, confidently continuing the work for which the Centre was established.

The Centre provides a space where community-based asylum seekers in NSW can access support. This brings to life our core values of defending human rights, empowerment and teamwork.

Our focus this year has been on building the capacity of our core programs to better meet client needs. We have devoted more time towards working cohesively with our partner agencies in the sector, both to achieve quality services for asylum seekers and to advocate strongly on their behalf.

The highlights for this year have been consolidating the services for the asylum seekers we see at the Centre and having the certainty that we can provide them with the support they need during the difficult processes that they face in Australia. As a starting point, every single asylum seeker who has come to the Centre homeless has been provided with accommodation.

In addition, we have also managed to develop some new initiatives. We now have an emergency housing fund so that we can provide immediate support to asylum seekers who present as homeless, while we search for placement in the limited range of affordable accommodation available in the sector. We also now have additional capacity to fund transport costs, an ongoing barrier for destitute asylum seekers.

In the last year, asylum seekers have consistently been in the media and political spotlight, with the focus being on border protection rather than ensuring the humane treatment and human rights of people who have reached our

shores seeking protection. There has been considerable attention given to asylum seekers who arrive by boat, and the harsh conditions and suffering they experience in detention – and rightly so.

However, very little attention is given to the rights of asylum seekers who are the core clients of the Centre, who arrive via plane with valid documentation and who live amongst us in the community. We want access to adequate health care, housing and transport for all community-based asylum seekers, and will continue to advocate for this in NSW. The Federal Government is signatory to key international human rights treaties and has a duty to recognise and accept responsibility for the welfare of all asylum seekers that come to Australia.

We are determined to continue to advocate for a fair and just treatment of all asylum seekers in Australia. We believe that asylum seekers should be detained only for the purpose of health and identity checks and for the shortest period of time. The Centre, together with key agencies in the sector, continues to advocate for a rejection of approaches which involve mandatory, indefinite detention of asylum seekers, removal of asylum seekers from Australian territory for processing in a third country or detention in third countries. People who seek Australia's protection should be allowed to live in the community and their rights should be safeguarded while they await a decision on their claim.

I thank the members of the Board and the ever-increasing number of supporters who continue to have faith in the work we do and in our ability

to advocate for the rights of asylum seekers. We would not be here, thriving, without your immense generosity and goodwill. Your contributions allow the Asylum Seekers Centre to provide quality care and services to asylum seekers.

I offer my deepest thanks to the staff and volunteers at the Asylum Seekers Centre who impress me daily with their commitment to the cause of asylum seekers and remain dedicated to improving the circumstances of the individuals and families who seek protection in Australia.

I am inspired by the spirit, courage, and dignity shown by the asylum seekers that come to the Centre. It is a great privilege to learn from the people who come here to seek sanctuary and whom we serve. We continue to work towards the day when there will be no need for services like the Asylum Seekers Centre and asylum seekers' rights are genuinely safeguarded in Australia.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Prabha Gulati".

Prabha Gulati
Director

About

The Asylum Seekers Centre

The Asylum Seekers Centre of NSW (ASC) was the first organisation of its kind to open in Australia and is the only specialist service for community-based asylum seekers in New South Wales.

What we do

Community-based asylum seekers are individuals and families who have entered Australia with a valid visa, usually as tourists or students, and have then applied for refugee status. In so doing, they are seeking Australia's protection because they fear returning to their country of origin. Many have experienced very traumatic events before coming here and are further traumatised by the uncertainty of waiting for a decision on their future.

Since 1993 the ASC has sought to provide a safe haven for asylum seekers where their practical and emotional needs can be addressed, while at the same time trying to address the systemic problems our clients confront.

The ASC is an independent, not-for-profit, non-government organisation. It is based in Surry Hills, Sydney, in premises owned and maintained by our core benefactors, the Good Shepherd Sisters. The Centre relies almost exclusively upon donations from supporters and grants from philanthropic bodies to sustain the many services it offers. Our first-ever NSW State government grant was received this year, and we have received no federal funding. Sydney City Council has supported the Centre's work with a number of small project grants.

The Centre employs a full-time Director and a small team of salaried staff, currently eight individuals, most of whom work part-time. Their work has been supported by an extensive network of over 120 active volunteers during 2010-2011.

Staff and volunteers work together to deliver free and confidential services to community-based asylum seekers through the Centre's four core program areas:

- > Casework
- > Health Care
- > Employment
- > Education & Recreation

'The Centre relies almost exclusively upon donations from supporters and grants from philanthropic bodies to sustain the many services it offers. Our first-ever NSW State Government grant was received this year, and we received no Federal funding.'



casework

Our Casework program provides:

- > information, advice and support for individuals and families
- > assistance in securing emergency and short-term accommodation
- > referrals for emergency financial and material support
- > referrals for legal advice and counselling
- > advocacy and liaison with relevant services and government agencies.



health care

Our Health Care program provides:

- > on-site primary and holistic health care delivered by qualified pro bono practitioners
- > financing of pharmaceuticals for medical conditions including life-threatening and other serious conditions
- > referrals for pro bono medical care, psychiatry, dental care, optometry and other specialist care
- > advocacy for fee waivers



employment

Our Employment program provides:

- > one to one job assistance to clients with work rights
- > assistance with accessing vocationally oriented courses
- > group sessions to develop employment preparation skills
- > a free recruitment service for employers, matching well-prepared and skilled employees with job vacancies
- > ongoing support for clients and employers to ensure successful placements and job retention.



education & recreation

Our volunteer-delivered Education & Recreation program provides:

- > beginners and intermediate English classes
- > relaxation classes
- > access to computers and internet including computer skills training
- > freshly prepared nutritious lunches
- > social connection through excursions

Complementing these services the ASC engages in advocacy and policy work aimed at addressing the systemic obstacles our clients confront. Community education is offered to promote greater understanding and acceptance of asylum seekers.

Our Patrons & Board

Patrons

**Her Excellency,
Professor Marie Bashir AC**
Governor of NSW

John Menadue AO

Board Members

Garry Rothwell
Chairman

Recently retired after a career in property valuation, banking and funds management. Garry has served on numerous corporate and not-for-profit boards and brings extensive experience in management and matters of corporate governance.

Christopher Fogarty
Secretary

Christopher is a lawyer and consultant with extensive experience in governance, management and international development. Christopher served for many years as Chair of Australian Volunteers International.

Lachlan Murdoch
Treasurer

Deputy Director, NSW Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors (STARTTS). Lachlan was a founding member of ASC and brings extensive expertise on refugee trauma and mental health matters.

Stephen Bradley

Steve has extensive commercial experience in business strategy and the effective use of information technology. He has been responsible for some of the largest change programs in Australia. Since finishing full time work, he has been involved in a number of not-for-profit enterprises.

Steven Glass

Partner in the law firm Gilbert + Tobin. Steven has practised for 17 years, specialising in commercial litigation. For 10 years Steven has led the firm's pro bono refugee practice. He has been a regular visitor to Christmas Island and other detention centres to represent asylum seekers.

Margaret Piper

Consultant. Margaret was Executive Director of the Refugee Council of Australia for 14 years and has been associated with ASC since its inception. She brings extensive expertise on the national and international legal and policy frameworks governing refugee and asylum seeker issues.

Frances Rush

Assistant Director, Office of the Public Guardian. Frances has extensive experience in complex case management and crisis intervention and has been associated with ASC since its inception.

Graham Thom

Refugee Coordinator, Amnesty International Australia. Graham has visited detention centres and refugee camps both in Australia and the region and has chaired the NSW Asylum Seeker Interagency since 2000.

Jack Thomas

Jack has a broad background in marketing and international operations management and brings with him a passion for human rights. Immediately before retirement, Jack was the President, Asia Pacific for Cognos Inc, a leading supplier of business intelligence.

Wendy Watson

Wendy holds a Ministerial appointment as an Official Visitor Mental Health and an Attorney General's Appointment as Guardian ad Litem. She has held senior positions in education as a school principal and in welfare as a senior manager.

Our Clients



During the 18 years it has been in existence, the Asylum Seekers Centre has provided a broad array of welfare, health, advocacy, employment and social support to over 4,000 community-based adult and child asylum seekers.

At the Asylum Seekers Centre, we work with community-based asylum seekers who have fled persecution or other dangers in their countries of origin and transit, and are seeking protection and a new life in Australia.

Our clients have applied for a protection visa after their arrival in Australia and reside in the community while waiting for a decision on whether they will be granted a permanent visa that will allow them to remain in Australia or whether they will be required to return to their country of origin.

During the 18 years it has been in existence, the Asylum Seekers Centre has provided a broad array of welfare, health, advocacy, employment and social support to over 4,000 community-based adult and child asylum seekers. Many of our clients have claims related to experiences of torture or other trauma associated with organised violence or exile. Some have experienced immigration detention. Some have been awaiting a substantive outcome on their immigration application for many years.

The asylum seekers we see at the Centre present with complex needs which our casework and health care teams must try to resolve. Homelessness, lack of income, mental and physical illness, separation from family members and the day-to-day challenges of being in a new country are just some of the issues they face.

Our clients not only need support to survive while waiting for an outcome on their application, but often require specialist assistance to address these fundamental needs.

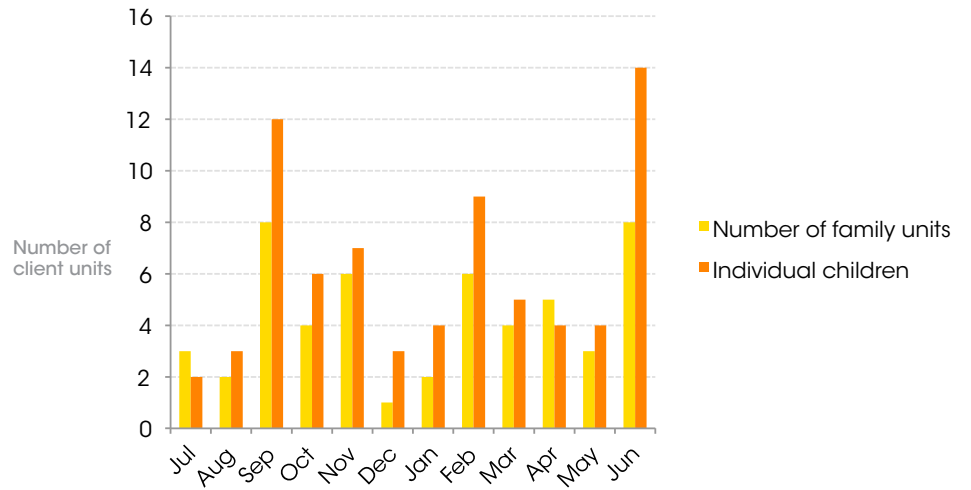
Asylum seekers are not eligible for Centrelink benefits. Depending on the conditions of the Bridging Visa they hold, some of our clients have permission to work and others do not. We have clients who cannot work because of their health, the level of trauma they have experienced, the need to care for young children or because they lack English language skills. Additionally, not all asylum seekers have access to Medicare. Relatively recent changes to NSW Health policy have addressed some access issues for this group but significant gaps remain for many of our clients.

Number of new clients presenting to ASC

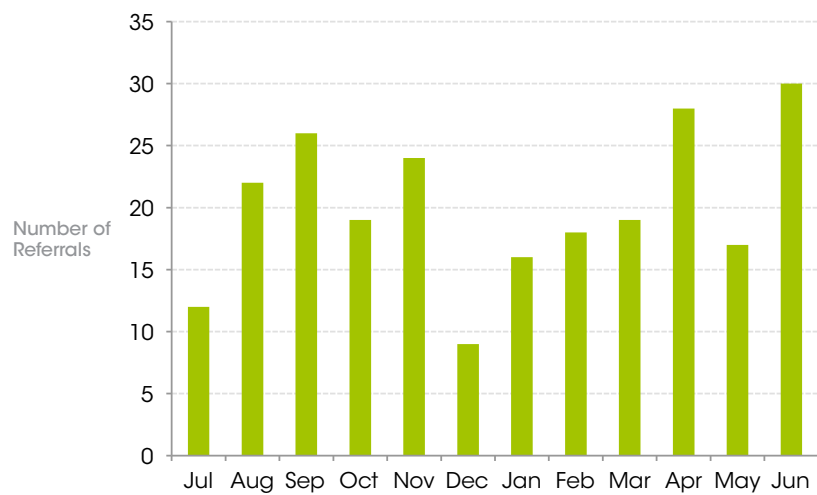
During 2010-11, there was a continuing high demand for services, with the Asylum Seekers Centre being referred 298 new clients. Alongside this, caseworkers continue to support asylum seekers with ongoing needs who have been accessing the Centre's services over a number of years.



Children 16 years and under in Australia at first or return contact



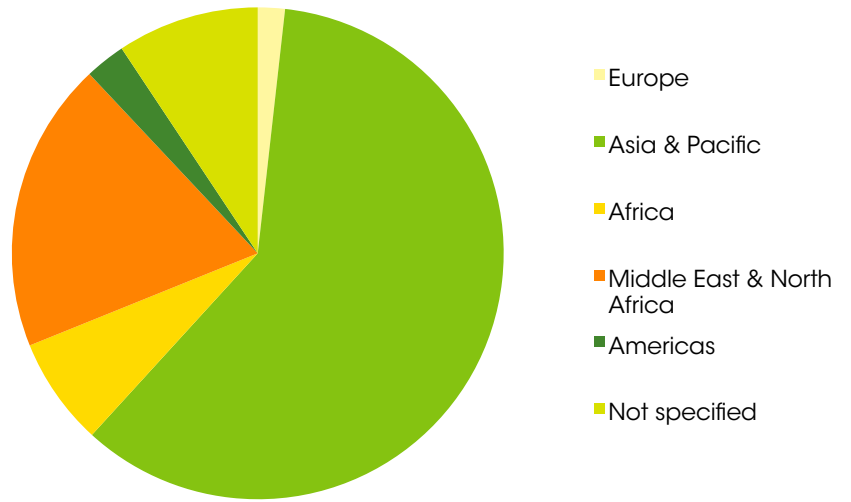
Number of Referrals Received



Country of Origin

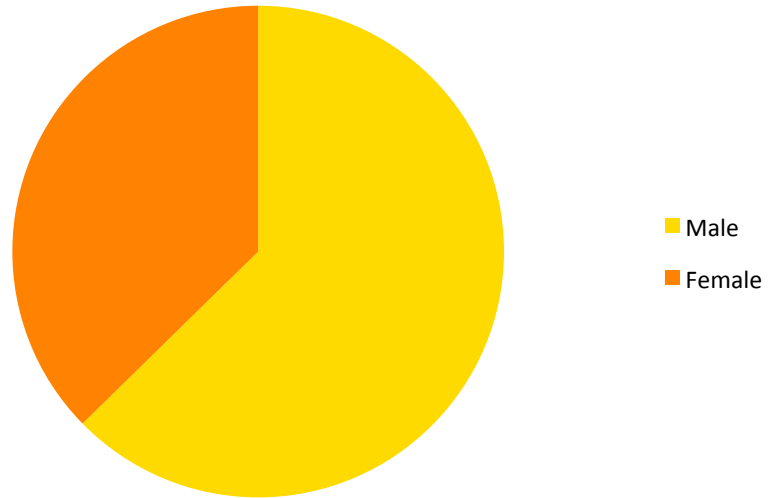
In 2010-2011 we had new clients from over 45 countries with the greatest number of clients coming from North Korea, followed (in descending frequency) by Fiji, India, Pakistan, China, Indonesia and Bangladesh.

Continents



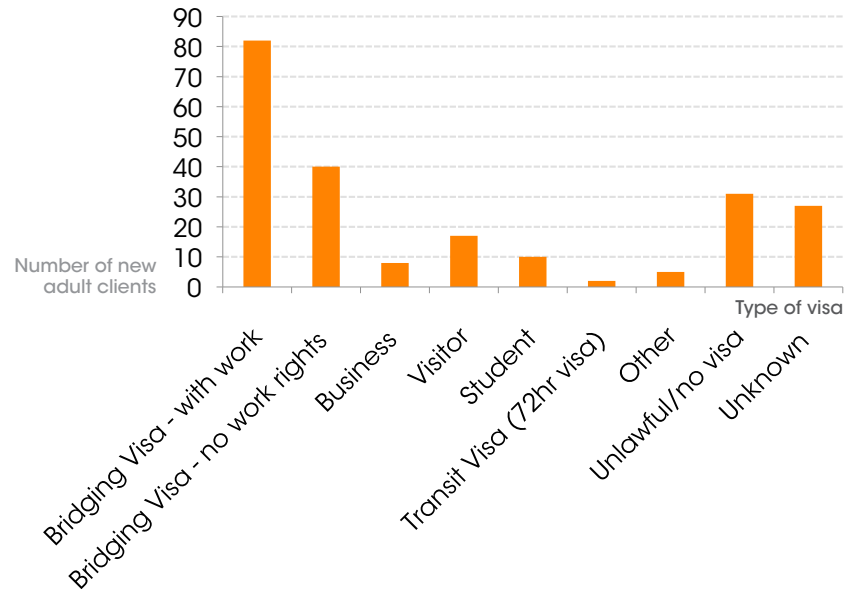
Clients' Gender

Historically, asylum seekers we have worked with have been predominantly male. The trend recorded in 2009-2010, of a larger proportion of female clients being seen by the Centre, has continued this year. Women represented 37% of the total number of new clients seen. Women experience unique issues, particularly an increased vulnerability, both in their experiences in their home countries and on arrival in Australia.

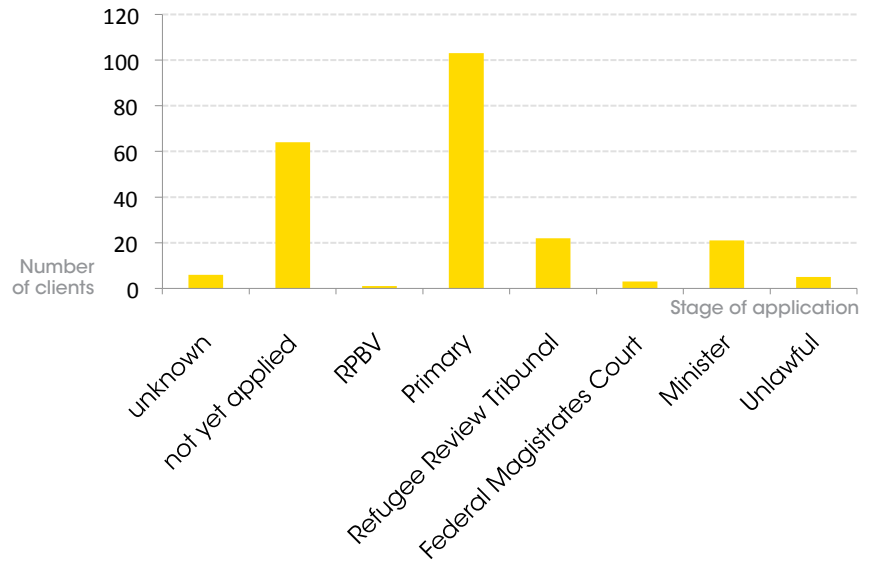


Visa Status at Point of First or Renewed Contact

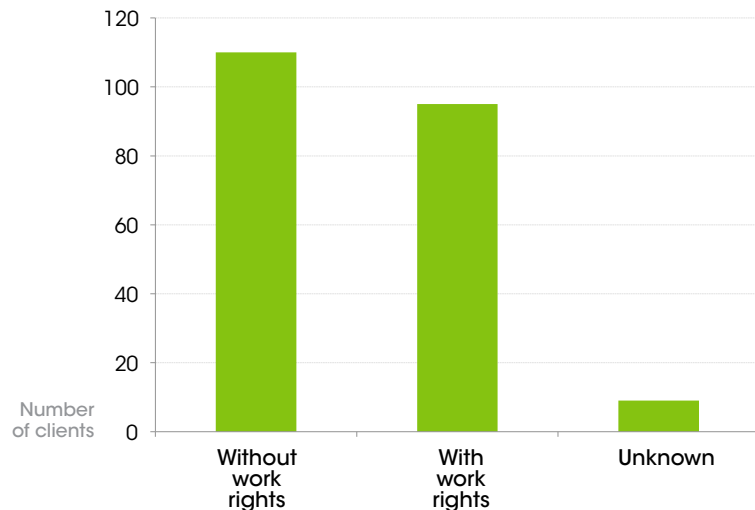
The majority of clients hold a Bridging Visa when they first come to the Asylum Seekers Centre for assistance. Some individuals are on a business, student or visitors visa and come to the Centre to seek information on how to apply for asylum. The type of visa a person holds dictates whether they have the right to work and therefore also access to Medicare.



Protection visa application Stage (at first contact)

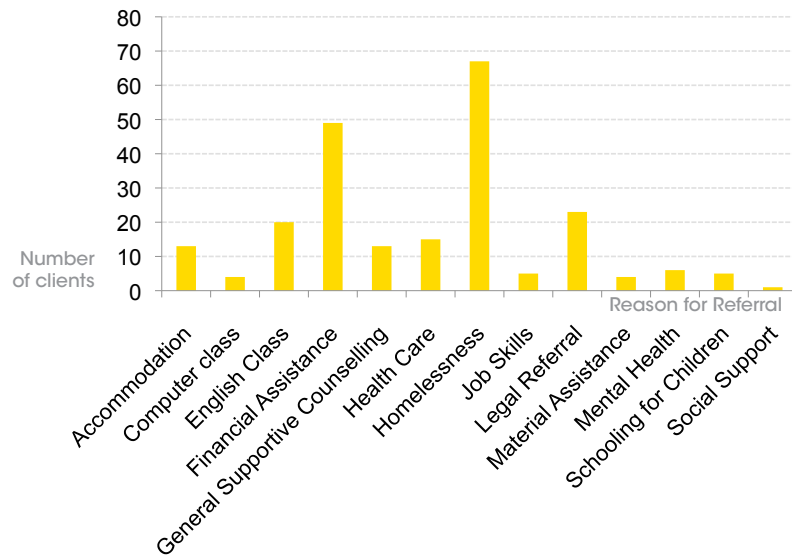


Work rights at first contact



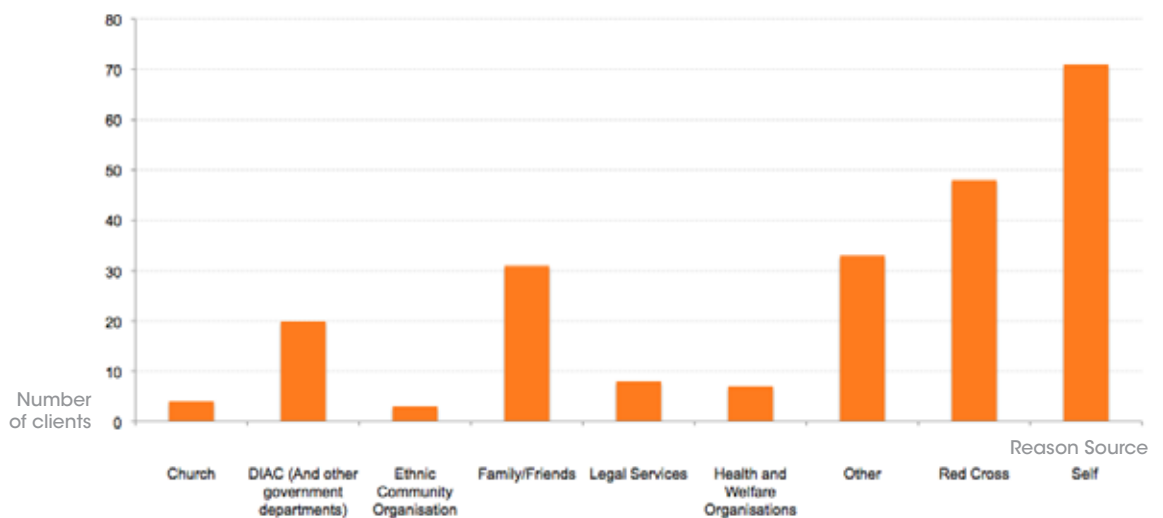
Primary reason for Referral

Asylum seekers come to the Centre for assistance for many reasons. The principal needs that clients identify are financial support and accommodation, with an increasing number presenting as homeless. A significant number request support because of concerns about their mental and physical health. Learning English and meaningful social activities with others are other vital areas of our work, and are very important to our clients.



Referral Source

Clients find out about the Asylum Seekers Centre in many different ways. Many of our clients come after hearing about our Centre through their local community. A friend or family member may also contact our Centre directly to ask for assistance for an asylum seeker. Local churches, other places of worship and sector services working with asylum seekers play a vital role in spreading the word about our Centre. The range of referral sources demonstrates the importance of the relationships we have built with both welfare agencies and the communities that asylum seekers come from.



Overview of our programs

Casework

The Casework Program is the initial entry point for all new clients who come to the Asylum Seekers Centre. It allows client needs to be assessed and prioritised on the basis of level of vulnerability, so that they can be linked to appropriate services within the Centre and externally.

There are three aspects to ASC's Casework Program:

- **Initial assessment:** this is for new clients presenting at the Centre and involves needs assessment, immediate intervention where appropriate, and/or referrals to other services.
- **Case Management:** this is undertaken for high-need clients requiring intensive casework support, and will continue until their case is resolved or until they choose to exit the service.
- **Assistance on an 'as needs' basis:** low to medium need clients will often drop into the Centre to seek advice about the issues they confront.

Clients have their priority needs addressed during the period following their initial assessment. Some will then continue to attend the Centre, primarily for English or recreational classes, computer use, free lunches, employment assistance, health care or material aid. Other clients will see caseworkers or the mental health counsellor for support on a regular basis, ranging from a few months to many years. A major part of the caseworker role is advocating for clients to access mainstream services.

Our casework team predominantly works with clients who arrive in crisis. In the 2010-11 year, one in three asylum seekers was referred to the Centre with accommodation needs; over 50% of these clients presented with imminent or actual homelessness.

Other critical issues the casework team worked to address with their clients included:

- > destitution
- > critical, unmanaged physical or mental health issues;
- > experiences of torture and trauma
- > imminent deportation or without a visa.
- > extreme social isolation

Our team of paid and voluntary casework staff help asylum seekers access practical support such as public schooling for children, material assistance such as clothing and blankets and food supplies

During the first half of 2010-11, the Casework Program was staffed by one part-time casework coordinator and one part-time caseworker. A full time casework coordinator was employed in the second half of the financial year. The new model of casework provision (combining salaried staff with qualified and experienced casework volunteers), which was introduced in the 2009-10 financial year, continued through 2010-11.

'I haven't spoken 500 words for two months and I have been here half a day and said over 1000 words'.

- Client to Asylum Seekers Centre's mental health counsellor

Case study 1

The Ling family were referred to the Asylum Seekers Centre and presented as homeless and destitute. Remaining members of their family had been detained by the government in their country of origin. The family fear imprisonment or worse should they return.

Mrs Ling appeared to have serious mental health concerns, in addition to a range of physical health concerns. She also had multiple physical disabilities as a result of an accident including speech, visual and hearing impairments and very restricted movement as a result of muscle contractures. Mrs Ling also suffered from symptoms indicative of post-traumatic stress and was dependent on her husband and children for most activities

of daily living.

Mr Ling also had significant health concerns that required treatment and that also impacted on his capacity to care for his wife. He advised that he had heart surgery in early 2011. Mr Ling advised that both he and his wife have been unable to afford medications that they have previously been taking for their respective conditions. ASC has assisted with the provision of medications through its agreement with a local hospital.

The Ling family was initially housed in short-term accommodation (funded by the ASC's Emergency Financial Assistance program) while their ASC caseworker sourced appropriate accommodation through one of the

asylum seeker agencies.

The family had no ongoing means of financial support. The caseworker referred the family for emergency financial assistance and pro bono legal assistance in regard to lodgement of their protection claim.

A referral was made for Ms Ling to ASC's mental health counsellor and for external ongoing specialised psychological support and counselling.

The family are now housed in accommodation sufficient for their needs, their health issues have been stabilised and they continue to be supported by case workers at the Centre. They continue to wait for an outcome on their claim for protection.

Achievements

- establishment of an Emergency Financial Assistance Program that provided homeless, destitute clients with:
 - immediate, short-term accommodation
 - food vouchers
 - payment to facilitate travel to the emergency accommodation
- development of a new client database;
- development of a comprehensive Casework Training Program to ensure that the volunteers are well equipped to respond to the specific needs of asylum seekers;
- advocating successfully for clients to access services within the mainstream services, e.g. liaising with Housing NSW to ensure that homeless and destitute clients were provided with medium term accommodation.

Challenges

The Casework Program has also faced a number of challenges during the year, including:

- responding to the high number of clients who presented as homeless and without any support in Australia. This unexpected demand reduced our capacity to develop new programs focusing on families;
- The capacity to expand the Casework Volunteer program was constrained by the lack of space.

Priorities in next 12 months

- establish a second site which will enable the expansion of the Casework Volunteer program;
- continue to innovate to meet the needs of our clients in the most effective and timely manner possible with the resources available.

Health Care

The ASC Health Care Program is the largest service of its type in NSW. We provide a broad range of health care services for vulnerable, at risk, community-based asylum seekers. All of the ASC Health Care Program are provided pro-bono to our clients, most of whom have no income and currently hold visas denying them work rights and Medicare. Their complex health concerns require multiple consultations across a range of health disciplines.

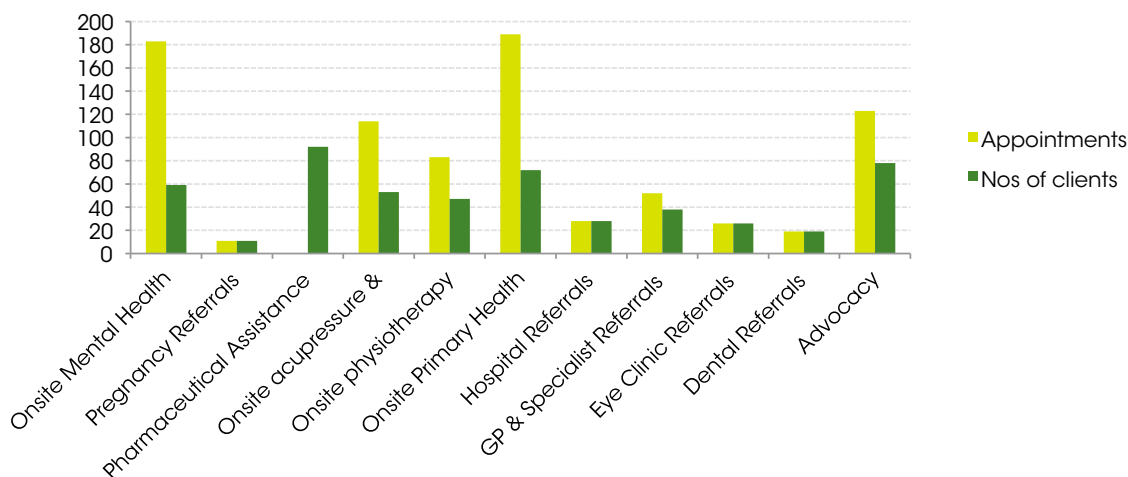
During 2010-2011 we focused on the continued provision of GP and allied Health care services to our clients and developed mechanisms to enhance internal ASC Health Care Program operations. In particular, the recruitment of volunteer registered nurses has provided much-needed resources for the program.

'All of the ASC Health Care Program services are provided pro-bono to our clients, most of whom have no income and currently hold visas denying them work rights and Medicare.'

Achievements

- Providing a high quality health care service and medical safety net while fostering mainstream health pathways and policy change. During 2010-2011, the ASC Health Care Program provided over 500 on-site appointments in primary health, physiotherapy, naturopathy, gentle touch therapy, and mental health counselling. This highlights the commitment of the volunteer team to meeting the needs of clients and work above and beyond capacity.
- Engagement of increased numbers of volunteers in the Health Care Program. We have now have volunteer registered nurses involved with the clinical/direct care of the program, policy development and health promotion. Some of the projects in which they have been involved include developing an HIV Policy for the Centre and producing a health module for a community/volunteer training package.
- Continued funding for our pharmaceuticals program which provides essential medication for our clients.
- Accessing pro-bono dental services for clients. A new referral pathway has recently opened up through the National Dental Foundation which offers dental rescue days throughout the metropolitan area every 3-4 months.
- Providing a whole range of specialist and diagnostic services thanks to tremendous support from St Vincent's and Mater Health. The hospital also continues to supply clinical items to our primary health clinic on a quarterly basis.
- Provision of pro-bono complementary community acupuncture clinic referrals to asylum seekers for the first time this year. Four clinics around the metropolitan area have volunteered their services.
- Peri-natal support provided by the Australian Doula College. They have assisted new mothers with baby clothes, organic baby food as well as providing mothercraft advice with breast feeding, weaning, settling and bathing.

The following table shows the level of usage of our health program during 2010-2011.



Systemic Advocacy

Along with the Director, the Health Care Program Coordinator represented the ASC at the NSW Refugee Health Steering Committee meetings to develop the NSW Refugee Health Plan 2011-2016. It outlines a best-practice model of refugee health care based on a commitment to human rights, equity and social justice. The Plan was launched by the NSW Minister for Health, Carmel Tebbutt, on March 1, 2011 and the NSW Health funding for the ASC was announced on the same day.

Supporting Research

The unique role that the ASC plays in the health care system for asylum seekers positions us to engage in and support valuable research opportunities in this area. One of the strategic projects we have been involved in is "Access to Health Care" – a research study to be published in the Medical Journal of Australia. It identified barriers to health care for asylum seekers including Medicare ineligibility, cost of medications and transport, the impact of various post-migration stressors and mental illness and lack of information amongst newly arrived asylum seekers.

Challenges

The ASC Health Care Program faces the continuing challenge of advocating for greater access to NSW Health services for asylum seekers. This involves broadening perceptions and raising awareness of asylum seeker health issues. Easing referral pathways to mainstream services where appropriate, and continuing to provide best practice, holistic health care for asylum seekers who are not able to access this elsewhere has been our main focus throughout the year. We will continue to develop community education and outreach plans to assist in achieving this goal.

Coordinating an effective and professional service with no formal ongoing funding or support remains a considerable challenge for the ASC Health Care Program.

Priorities in next 12 months

- Continuing to increase pro bono general practice, oral health and specialist medical services available to asylum seekers
- Maintaining volunteers for the nursing and complementary health components for this program

Employment

The Employment Assistance Program (EAP) was established in 2010 to provide job assistance services to asylum seekers who have no access to government-funded employment programs or welfare benefits because of their visa conditions. The EAP assists asylum seekers with work rights to find employment aligned with their skills and experience.

The job seekers in the EAP are work-fit and some are professionally qualified and highly skilled in their trade. Often they are multi-lingual and bring fresh problem-solving perspectives from their overseas experience. They have English fluency allowing them to transition successfully into Australian work places. What we advocate for job seekers to overcome, is their lack of local experience and local referees. The short term nature of Bridging Visas also makes it extremely difficult for them to be considered for employment.

Paid employment helps asylum seekers to start pulling their lives back together by offering financial security, social inclusion, and improved mental health that comes from having a routine and positive focus. It also provides the chance to contribute to the Australian community, which is a strong motivation for many of the EAP participants.

The part-time EAP Coordinator works with two volunteer team leaders - one to support eight volunteer job advisors, and the other to review and strengthen the employment program.

Developing a team structure and recruiting appropriately qualified volunteers was one of the challenges identified in the 2010 annual report. Significant time has been invested in setting up an employment team structure that ensures we are able to offer the best service possible to our clients.

Volunteers are responsible for liaising with employers to raise awareness of the valuable pool of prospective asylum seeker employees. As a result of their intrepid work, we have established a direct referral pathway with one aged care employer and a large hospital offering food services, cleaning and allied health roles. These employers are willing to interview job applicants we refer to them. Similar referral pathways are being established with catering businesses, restaurant owners and cleaning businesses to identify volunteering and paid work opportunities.

The Asylum Seekers Centre is the only agency offering this structured employment assistance model to asylum seekers in NSW.

"I think employers should open their doors to asylum seekers through the EAP because they have strong work ethics, families they need to support and are hard workers".
Tanya, Job Advisor

Working alongside people seeking asylum is an uplifting experience as you go on the journey with someone who starts from scratch till they find some work that will give them a foothold in their new homeland. - Margaret, Job Advisor

Achievements

- The EAP team has assessed 72 people for job assistance and 41 job seekers have been assisted to strengthen their ability to independently find work in Australia.
- 34% of EAP participants found paid work through the employment program. 25% were assisted to secure places in TAFE or other training programs. 13% of all referrals found sufficient paid work independently.
- Funding has been secured for a further 12 months allowing the part-time Employment Coordinator to increase hours and a second part time position to be added to the program.
- Of the 72 people referred to the EAP, 32% gained permanent residency. Almost half of this group gained transition support from the EAP team to help them connect with appropriate employment services. The skills gained in the employment program help people settle into the community much more quickly and easily.

Priorities in next 12 months

- Increase the number of employers willing to offer paid work or volunteering roles to applicants from the EAP.
- Explore social enterprise opportunities providing meaningful employment for asylum seekers.
- Reduce the length of time taken for job seekers to find paid employment and financial security.
- Develop a transport assistance fund to enable job seekers to attend job interviews and training courses.

Case study 2

Serena is from a tiny island in the Indian Ocean. Because of the ethnic war in her country her undergraduate studies were interrupted and a marriage was organized to safeguard her life. However, the situation remained unsafe. Even after marriage Serena and her husband had to change their locations more than three times due to death threats, risk of arrest and continuous harassment. Finally Serena's husband left the country for his safety but she and her children continued to face the same situation even though he was away. She decided to leave the country with her children and join her husband in Australia.

Serena and her husband were referred to the Asylum Seekers Centre (ASC) to get employment assistance. After her support needs, English aptitude and skills were assessed, Serena was accepted onto the program. The ASC allocated a volunteer Job Advisor to help her with writing a CV, cover letter and job applications.

Serena says:

"While I was with ASC, I was able to enrol at Petersham TAFE to study Certificate III Financial Services and I am currently doing a Diploma in Accounting with the support of TAFE counsellors and TAFE teachers.

The ASC job advisor sent our resumes to potential employers. I was able to attend a few interviews following ASC referrals. This was how I found a good job as a bookkeeper which is a permanent part time position, allowing me to complete my TAFE study and get experience in the financial field.

As I am a mother, I can now feel settled in my mind with this wonderful job. I am now experiencing wellbeing and a sense of control of my own life. Now I am leading a peaceful life with the help of the people of Australia."

Volunteers

Volunteers continue to play a pivotal role in the success of ASC. Without our pool of more than 120 skilled and dedicated volunteers, ASC would not be able to provide such a diverse scope of services ranging from critical front-line assistance to more social and recreational type activities.

At the end of fiscal year 2011, there were significant HR transitions in the volunteer coordinator role, with funding for the position expanding to four days per week. Fiona Hodge, the current volunteer coordinator has gone on maternity leave and Maura Corkery, the new Volunteer Coordinator started at the end of June 2011.

The Volunteer Program is the cornerstone of ASC and has relied on skilled volunteers donating their time (some more than 10 years) to provide a range of activities including English lessons, pro-bono health care, casework, job skills, nutritious lunches, cooking lessons, food donations, excursions, etc. Some of these volunteers work at ASC every week, others assist on a project basis and off-site. Throughout the year, over 300 applications/inquires were received.

Over 40 new volunteers were recruited during 2010-2011, bringing the number of active volunteers to over 120.

During 2010-2011, ASC volunteers performed an ever-expanding variety of roles in addition to those which have been mentioned in the core program areas and these include:

- > teaching English;
- > managing reception and providing administrative support;
- > providing nutritious lunches and cooking skills;
- > organising and leading excursions;
- > providing IT support;
- > undertaking garden and site maintenance;
- > OHS and Human Resources consultancy and policy advice;
- > writing funding submissions and organising fund-raising events
- > media and communications
- > graphic design

“ I never realised the positive impact that a simple excursion could make in the day of an asylum seeker. Seeing clients interacting socially, sharing stories of their cultures, asking questions about daily Australian life, sharing fond memories and making friends. Something magical happens when you bring a group of asylum seekers to a tranquil and peaceful environment. You notice bigger smiles, people playing games and feeling happy to be in a beautiful setting. Somehow, the worries vanish for a while even if it's only for an afternoon.

- Maura, Volunteer Program Coordinator

”

“ I have been providing lunches for the past few years as part of a team. I was starting to think that I just don't have the time to volunteer any more as my work and family obligations have increased and I just have less free time. Yet, every time I come to the Centre, I feel like I just can't stop. The clients always make such a point of coming up and thanking us personally for our contribution that it makes it all worthwhile. Instead, I have just re-organised my time so I can still shop and prepare the food in advance!

- Jenny, Hospitality Volunteer

”

Our **English Classes** are provided by a committed team of volunteers, some of whom have been teaching weekly for many years at ASC. The program provides classes that are social, fun and practical while assisting students to improve a range of language skills—speaking, listening, reading and writing. Students may participate at any time during the session allowing for greatest flexibility. This is especially important given the unpredictable priorities and needs that arise in the daily life of an asylum seeker. This year teachers taught more than 1000 student hours.

Throughout the years, there have always been fluctuations in attendance based upon the English language skills of current clients. As a result, our teachers are an extremely creative and flexible group of skilled volunteers who consistently rise to the challenge of unpredictable numbers and diverse learning levels.

Group Excursions provide more than just an opportunity for asylum seekers to visit Sydney's attractions and to practice their English. It provides a welcome respite from their daily stress. It's an integral opportunity for asylum seekers to interact with ASC volunteers and learn about the broader Australian community in places such as Sculpture by the Sea, NSW Art Gallery, Ku-ring-gai National Park, the Sydney Opera House, the Botanical Garden and Mt. Annan and the Biennale Exhibition at Cockatoo Island.

The Hospitality Team provides nutritious meals in a welcoming social environment. Hospitality volunteers are committed to making meal time enjoyable, donating their time and money to purchase and prepare nutritious meals for up to twenty people per day, four days per week. These meals may be the only hot meal that asylum seekers may have that day. As many of them face social isolation, the volunteer hospitality program provides more than just nutrition. Lunchtime also provides a welcome opportunity to interact with each other and to share stories and cooking tips with the volunteers. Sharing a meal is always a relaxing and meaningful experience for those involved and it is always a time that the clients look forward to the most.

During the year, cooking demonstrations and a recipe project were introduced to teach asylum seekers how to prepare cheap, nutritious meals. This is especially important for the majority of our clients who are male and have arrived in a new country without any basic cooking skills.

Computer Classes continue to be facilitated through the generous support of the University of Sydney Engineers without Borders, Connectivity Program which has been providing volunteers since 2007. They run computer literacy classes and provide one-on-one tutoring as needed. Accessibility to free computers and classes not only provides opportunities for asylum seekers to work on their resumes or online applications but it also provides a valuable opportunity to stay connected with friends and family through the internet or to utilize online translation resources.

“ I never realised the positive impact that a simple excursion could make in the day of an asylum seeker. Seeing clients interacting socially sharing stories of their cultures, asking questions about daily Australian life, sharing fond memories and making friends. There is something magical when you bring a group of asylum seekers to a tranquil and peaceful environment you notice bigger smiles, people playing games and feeling happy to be in a beautiful setting. Somehow, the worries vanish for awhile even if it's only an afternoon.”

Maura, Volunteer Program Coordinator

“ The Centre is important not just for the help, advice and services it provides to people who are vulnerable and unfamiliar with the English language or environment, but also because it functions as a safe social space where they can come and meet or hang out for a bit, meet others and make friends. As a reception volunteer, I find the small acts and gestures that most of us overlook nowadays are noticed and greatly appreciated by our clients. I think people are grateful simply to have someone who’s able to relate to them in a patient, non-judgemental, non-patronising way.

- Leon, Reception Volunteer

”

Our dedicated team of **Garden Volunteers** successfully received a small grant from the City of Sydney to transform the front concrete area into a vibrant green space adorned with native and edible plants. The garden continues to provide a popular spot for clients to socialize and to relax. The garden also doubles as additional meeting space and is a popular place for us to hold community and Centre events which is critical given our lack of office space.

Volunteers were recognised, thanked, and provided with a lino print created by the clients at our annual Volunteer Celebration held during October 2010 at Lend Lease.

Priorities for next 12 months include:

- increase volunteer engagement across all ASC programs
- foster community engagement with asylum seekers

VOLUNTEERS
DONATED
MORE THAN
7000
HRS DURING
2010-2011!

On behalf of all of the staff and clients of ASC, we would like to extend a huge thank you to all the wonderful and dedicated volunteers who provided this invaluable support to asylum seekers during 2010-2011.

Fundraising and Communications

The Asylum Seekers Centre's proactive and strategic Fundraising Program exists to ensure the ongoing financial sustainability of the Centre. It provides support for all other program areas and enables us to meet our clients' continued and broadening demand for support and assistance.

During the 2010-11 financial year we have successfully increased our fundraising efforts from 2009-10 through a diversified stream of fundraising programs and activities, a tremendous achievement particularly during a difficult financial environment.

Category	% change from 2009-10 Financial Year
Donations	+25%
Fundraising Events	+10.12%
Grants	+113.08%
Monthly Donors	+73.8%
Miscellaneous	+163.19%

We have also increased our vital community of supporters who have very generously responded to two ASC appeals and have supported our major fundraising events

Events



Annual Quiz

Attended by more than 350 guests, the 9th Annual Quiz was once again the highlight of our fundraising calendar. Themed A Night at the Movies, the evening was hosted by the ever engaging HG Nelson and James Valentine, who combined their witty humour and knowledge on asylum seeker issues to present an informative and fun-filled night. Guests came dressed as the cast of Chicago, Pirates of the Caribbean, Harry Potter's schoolmates, and many more. Upon arrival they were welcomed by the Sax Summit jazz band, and were later challenged with a number of Hollywood era questions, including a round of show tunes featuring the lovely Edwina Blush on vocals and James Valentine on the saxophone. It was a magical evening and remembered by many as the best Quiz ever!



Seeking Justice

Hosted by premier corporate law firm, Gilbert + Tobin, the Asylum Seekers Centre held a special Q&A evening to explore the rights of asylum seekers in Australia. The audience participated in a lively and stimulating discussion moderated by Professor Ben Saul, with a distinguished panel of legal experts, including Julian Burnside AO QC and Dr Jane McAdam.



Year in the Rear

In December we hosted a hilarious review of the topical issues of 2010. Celebrities HG Nelson, Julian Morrow and Chris Taylor were our MCs for the night of laughs, with band Dog Trumpet providing respite from the humour. There were queues waiting to get in for this wonderfully entertaining, sell-out evening which was another key fundraising event for the Centre.

Community Events

All of our fundraising events consciously include the objective of raising community awareness of the needs of asylum seekers living in the community. One example was an art exhibition at ESP Gallery where the Director addressed the group of attendees.

Two forums for former asylum seekers were held in April, which was a very positive re-engagement with former clients of the Centre. We recognise that ex-clients who have been granted permanent residency want to play a role in helping raise public awareness and we have initiated communication activities to seek their participation in our community education program.

Refugee Week

Refugee Week was celebrated at the ASC on Saturday 25th June with a welcoming ceremony for asylum seekers recently granted refugee status. It was attended by a gathering of ex-clients, Board, supporters and staff. Each

refugee placed a personalised stone on a Welcome Wall to symbolise their permanent place in Australia.

Community Education

There is limited understanding in the broader Australian community of the issues facing asylum seekers who arrive by plane and reside lawfully in the community whilst awaiting a decision on their refugee status.

The coverage that is given to asylum seekers is often negative and they are labelled as "boat people" and 'illegals' which results in many Australians having negative views about asylum seekers. The mode of arrival is irrelevant. What all of us at the Asylum Seekers Centre believe is the importance of ensuring that the asylum seeker debate is one that remains focused on human rights. Further, we recognise we have an important role in raising the awareness of the public about the existence of community-based asylum seekers and the challenges our clients encounter.

'..What all of us at the Asylum Seekers Centre believe is the importance of ensuring that the asylum seeker debate is one that remains focused on human rights.'

Achievements

This year we built awareness through:

- quarterly e-newsletters which are sent to our supporters to provide updates about relevant developments and aspects of our work;
- new supporter and services brochures have been produced, as well as client brochures in 10 different languages;
- training and facilitating social justice fora for secondary schools and community groups including The Ionian Women's Club, Mission Australia AMEP Home Tutor Scheme teachers meeting, St Luke's Anglican Church Social Justice Group and Holdsworth Community Centre;
- hosting senior students at the Centre as part of their student placements;
- using our website (www.asylumseekerscentre.org.au) to draw attention to the systemic hardships faced by our clients and the advocacy work that we do alleviate the impact; and
- using our Facebook page to communicate quickly with a large number of our supporters, for example to publicise advocacy campaigns we endorse.

Priorities for next 12 months include:

- Secure regular funding for core services and programs;
- Increase the number of monthly pledge donors;
- Utilise our newly developed Community Speakers Kit to build community engagement.

ASYLUM SEEKERS CENTRE

ABN 47 164 509 475

Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2011

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Financial Statements	
Management Committee Report	1
Income Statement	3
Balance Sheet	4
Statement of Changes in Equity	5
Notes to the Financial Statements	6
Management Committee Declaration	10
Independent Audit Report	11
Certificate by Members of the Management Committee	13
Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement	14

Asylum Seekers Centre

ABN: 47 164509475

Directors' Report

30 June 2011

1. General information

a The names of the Management Committee members in office as at 30TH June 2011

Names

Garry Rothwell

Michael Lambert (until October 2010)

Merle Conyer (until October 2010)

Ros Bradley (until October 2010)

Christopher Fogarty

Lachlan Murdoch

Margaret Piper

Wendy Watson

Frances Rush

Graham Thom

Steven Glass (since January 2011)

Jack Thomas (since January 2011)

Steven Bradley (since April 2011)

The Management Committee members have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

b Principal Activities

The principal activities of the Centre are to provide a welcoming environment and practical support for community-based asylum seekers residing in NSW, while building community support and pursuing social justice outcomes for asylum seekers

c Significant Changes

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

2. Business review

a Operating Result

The profit of the Centre for the financial year amounted to \$134,538.67 (2009/10: \$22,610.88)

3. Other items

a Significant Post-Balance Date Event

There have been no significant post balance sheet events

Asylum Seekers Centre

ABN: 47 164509475

Directors' Report

30 June 2011

3. Other items continued

b Auditors Independence Declaration

The auditor's independence declaration for the year ended 30 June 2011 has been received and can be found on page 3 of the financial report.

4. Indemnifying Officers or Auditors

No indemnities have been given or insurance premiums paid, during or since the end of the financial year, for any person who is or has been an officer or auditor of the Asylum Seekers Centre.

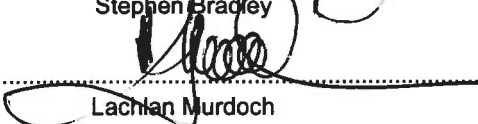
5. Proceedings on Behalf of the Association

No person has applied for leave of Court to bring proceedings on behalf of the association or intervene in any proceedings to which the company is a party for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the association for all or any part of those proceedings.

The association was not a party to any such proceedings during the year.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee:

Chairman: 
Stephen Bradley

Treasurer: 
Lachlan Murdoch

Dated this 1st day of December 2011

Asylum Seekers Centre

ABN: 47 164509475

For the Year Ended 30 June 2011

Income Statement

		2011	2010
	Note	\$	\$
Revenue	1(i), 3	618,831	407,478
Other income	3	<u>7,872</u>	<u>2,991</u>
Total Revenue		626,703	410,469
Employee benefits expense	4	(362,154)	(314,988)
Depreciation, amortisation and impairments	1(d)	(2,550)	(2,845)
Other expenses	4	<u>(127,461)</u>	<u>(70,025)</u>
Total Expenses		(492,165)	(387,858)
Profit/loss() before income tax		134,538	22,611
Income tax expense	1(h)	-	-
Net Profit		134,538	22,611

Asylum Seekers Centre

ABN: 47 164509475

For the Year Ended 30 June 2011

Balance Sheet

	Note	2011 \$	2010 \$
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	342,443	136,317
Accounts receivable	7	25,644	
Total current assets		368,087	136,317
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	1(d), 8	3,779	5,037
Total non-current assets		371,866	141,354
TOTAL ASSETS			
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Staff payables	9.a	28,009	23,604
Other payables	9.b	4,367	9,284
Tied Grants		156,211	59,726
Total current liabilities		188,587	92,614
TOTAL LIABILITIES			
NET ASSETS			
EQUITY			
Retained earnings		183,279	48,740
TOTAL EQUITY		183,279	48,740

Asylum Seekers Centre

ABN: 47 164509475

For the Year Ended 30 June 2011

Statement of Changes in Equity

2011

	Retained Earnings \$
Balance at 1 July 2010	<u>48,740</u>
Profit attributable to entity	<u>134,538</u>
Balance at 30 June 2011	<u>183,279</u>

2010

	\$
Balance at 1 July 2009	<u>26,130</u>
Profit attributable to the entity	<u>22,610</u>
Balance at 30 June 2010	<u>48,740</u>

Asylum Seekers Centre

ABN: 47 164509475

For the Year Ended 30 June 2011

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) General information

The financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act of New South Wales.

The financial report covers Asylum Seekers Centre as an individual entity. Asylum Seekers Centre is an association incorporated in New South Wales under the Associations Incorporations Act 1984.

The financial report of the Asylum Seekers Centre as an individual entity complies with all Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRS) in their entirety.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the association in the preparation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

(b) Basis of Preparation

Reporting Basis and Conventions

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs modified by the revaluation of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities for which the fair value basis of accounting has been applied.

(c) Comparative Figures

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

(d) Property, Plant and Equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis less depreciation and impairment losses.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets including buildings and capitalised leased assets, is depreciated on a straight-line basis over their useful lives commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable assets are:

Refrigerator	8.5%
Carpet	17.7%
Computer Equipment	40%

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each balance date.

Asylum Seekers Centre

ABN: 47 164509475

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2011

(e) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less

(f) Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the company's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee benefits that are expected to be settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled, plus related on-costs. There are no Employee benefits payable later than one year.

(g) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the company has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

(h) Income Tax

No provision for income tax has been raised as the association is exempt from tax under Division 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

(i) Revenue

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

(j) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

Asylum Seekers Centre

ABN: 47 164509475

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2011

2 Deductible Gift Recipient

The Asylum Seekers Centre is a Public Benevolent Institution and has been endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient.

3 Revenue

Detailed Revenue: see page 14

4 Expenses

Detailed Expenses: see page 14

Asylum Seekers Centre

ABN: 47 164509475

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2011

5 Auditors' Remuneration		
Remuneration of the auditor of the entity for:	2011	2010
	\$	\$
- Auditing or reviewing the financial report	0	0
6 Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash on hand	500	400
Cash at bank	341,943	136,317
	<u>342,443</u>	<u>136,717</u>
7 Trade and other receivables		
Current		
Recoverable & Deposits	800	
Accounts Receivable	24,844	0
Total	<u>25,644</u>	<u>0</u>
8 Property Plant and Equipment		
At cost	9420	8,503
Additions	1,291	917
Less depreciation	(6,933)	(4,383)
Total written down value	<u>3,779</u>	<u>5,037</u>
9 Payables		
a. Staff		
PBI Payable	0	0
Wages Accrued	0	0
Superannuation Payable	0	6,815
Annual Leave Payable	28,009	16,790
	<u>28,009</u>	<u>23,605</u>
b. Other Payables		
GST Payable	(2,519)	(1,302)
PAYG Payable	6,386	586
Misc Creditors	500	10,000
	<u>4,367</u>	<u>9,284</u>

Asylum Seekers Centre

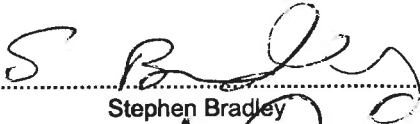
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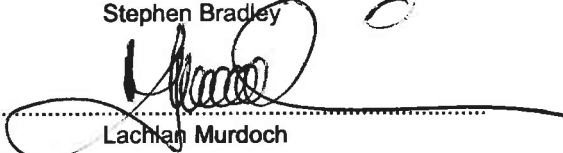
Directors' Declaration

In the opinion of the Management Committee the financial report as set out on pages 4 to 11:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Asylum Seekers Centre as at 30 June 2011 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, mandatory professional reporting requirements and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Standards board.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Asylum Seekers Centre will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Management Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Management Committee by:

Chairman 
Stephen Bradley

Treasurer 
Lachlan Murdoch

Dated 1/12/11

Asylum Seekers Centre

ABN: 47 164509475

Independent Audit Report to the members of the Asylum Seekers Centre

Pursuant to the Associations Incorporation Act, 1984

Overall Scope

I have audited the financial report of the Asylum Seekers Centre for the financial year ended 30 June 2011. The Centre's Management Committee is responsible for the financial report. I have conducted an independent audit of this financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members of the Association. The accounts are special purpose accounts.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements and statutory requirements in Australia, so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Centre's financial position and the results of its operations and cash flows.

My audit opinion pursuant to the Associations Incorporation Act, 1984 has been formed on the above basis.

Additional Scope Pursuant to the Charitable Fundraising (NSW) Act 1991

In addition, my audit report has also been prepared for the members of the Association in accordance with Section 24(2) of the Charitable Fundraising (NSW) Act 1991. The Charitable Fundraising (NSW) Act commenced 1 September 1993. Accordingly I have performed additional procedures which included obtaining an understanding of the internal control structure for fundraising appeal activities and examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting compliance with the accounting and associated record keeping requirements for fundraising appeal activities pursuant to the Charitable Fundraising (NSW) Act 1991 and Regulations.

It should be noted that the accounting records and data relied upon for reporting on fundraising appeal activities are not continuously audited. It is therefore not possible to ensure all revenue from fund raising activities has been brought to account.

The performance of my statutory audit included a review of internal controls for the purpose of determining the appropriate audit procedures to enable an opinion to be expressed on the financial report. The review is not a comprehensive review of all those systems or of the system taken as a whole and is not designed to uncover all weaknesses in those systems.

Audit Opinion Pursuant to the Associations Incorporation Act 1984

In my opinion, the financial report of the Asylum Seekers Centre is properly drawn up:

- (a) so as to present fairly the state of affairs of the Association as at 30 June 2011 and the results and cash flows of the Association for the financial year ended on that date; and
- b) in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements; and
- c) in accordance with the Associations Act 1984.

Audit Opinion Pursuant to the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991

In my opinion, subject to the scope limitation referred to:

- a) the financial report gives a true and fair view of the financial result of fundraising appeal activities for the financial year ended 30 June 2011;
- b) the financial report has been properly drawn up, and the associated records have been properly kept for the year ended 30 June 2011, in accordance with the Charitable Fundraising (NSW) Act 1991 and Regulations;

Asylum Seekers Centre

ABN: 47 164509475

Independent Audit Report to the members of the Asylum Seekers Centre

Pursuant to the Associations Incorporation Act, 1984

- c) money received as a result of fundraising appeal activities conducted during the year ended 30 June 2011 has been properly accounted for and applied in accordance with the Charitable Fundraising (NSW) Act 1991 and Regulations; and
- d) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Asylum Seekers Centre Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

Auditors Independence Declaration

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended June 2011 there has been:

- (i) no contravention of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contravention of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

R. Barham

Ray Barham

Public Accountant

Reg. Co. Auditor

Date:

1/12/11

Asylum Seekers Centre

ABN: 47 164509475

Certificate by Members of the Management Committee

For the Year Ended 30 June 2011

I, Stephen Bradley of, 14 Vista St, Greenwich, NSW, and I, Lachlan Murdoch of, 25A Beemera St. Fairfield Heights NSW, certify that:

- (a) We are members of the Management Committee of the Asylum Seekers Centre
- (b) We attended the annual general meeting of the association held on 26 October 2011
- (c) We are authorised by resolution of the Asylum Seekers Centre to sign this certificate.
- (d) This annual statement was submitted to and approved by the members of the Asylum Seekers Centre at its annual general meeting.

Dated

1/12/11

.....
Stephen Bradley (Chairman of Management Committee)

.....
Lachlan Murdoch (Treasurer)

Asylum Seekers Centre

ABN: 47 164509475

Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement

For the Year Ended 30 June 2011

	2011	2010
	\$	\$
Income		
Donations	248,690	198,928
Fund Raising	79,396	72,103
Grants	290,745	136,447
Investment Income	6,852	714
Other Income	1,020	2,277
Total income	626,703	410,469
Less: Expenses		
Salaries	224,013	272,672
Superannuation	18,174	24,142
Annual Leave provision	11,219	1,681
Consultants & Contractors	108,648	16,493
Training, Development & recruitment	2,996	2,199
Bank Charges	1,908	1,818
Postage	2,312	686
Telecommunications	5,228	7,284
Translation	3,750	0
Depreciation	2,550	2,845
Insurance	12,194	13,682
Membership	812	283
Minor Equipment	991	2,502
Other Office expenses	8,809	3,402
Photocopying & newsletter production	1,271	2,371
Repairs & Maintenance (I.T)	1,521	5,396
Stationery	2,380	1,301
Volunteer Expenses	761	225
Fund Raising expenses	13,289	15,045
Emergency Assistance	54,507	2,427
Health Care	9,707	6,902
Travel	1,101	911
Electricity	2,559	2,258
Gas	373	310
Water	1,092	1,023
Total Expenses	492,165	387,858
Profit/(Loss) before income tax	134,538	22,611

Acknowledgements of our Supporters

From 2010-2011

Sincerest thanks to all of our generous financial, pro bono, volunteer and material supporters (including individuals, agencies and networks), whose assistance has enabled us to sustain our operations over another busy year. We extend to you all our very warmest thanks.

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