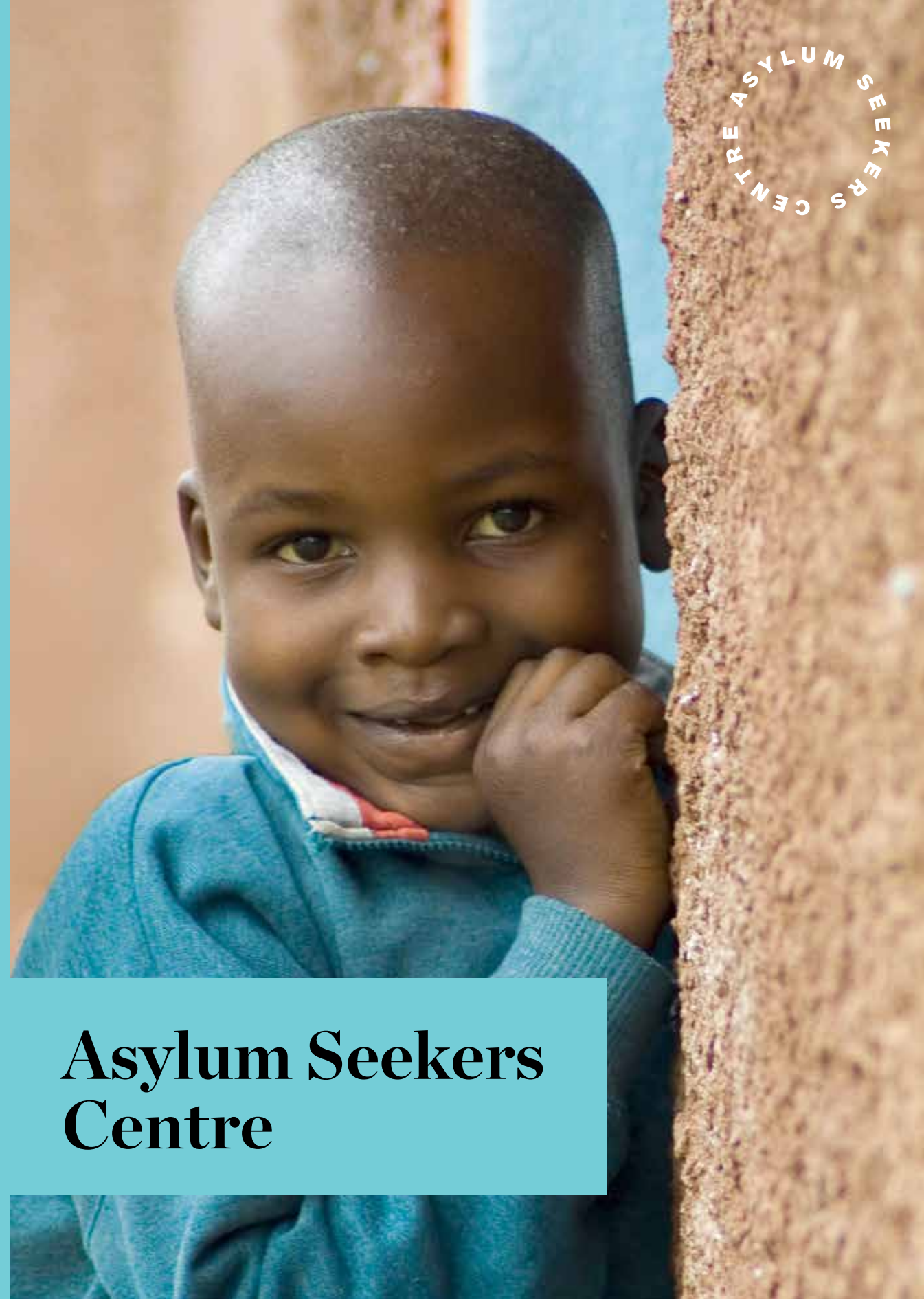


CENTRE ASYLUM SEEKERS



CENTRE ASYLUM SEEKERS

Call us: 02 9078 1900

Fax us: 02 9078 1999

Learn more: www.asylumseekerscentre.org.au
Visit us on Facebook

Email us: admin@asylumseekerscentre.org.au

Visit us: Asylum Seekers Centre, Becher House,
43 Bedford St, Newtown NSW 2042 Australia

Asylum Seekers Centre

Our Vision

Asylum seekers are welcomed and given the chance to heal in safety and freedom while they rebuild their lives as worthy members of our community.

The Asylum Seekers Centre provides practical and personal support for asylum seekers living in the community.

We do this through:

- Meeting their human rights needs
- Seeking justice
- Assisting them to rebuild their lives
- Providing a community

Our services include accommodation, financial support, health care, legal advice, employment assistance, education, food and social support.

We are a not-for-profit organisation and rely on grants, donations and volunteers to undertake our work.

The Asylum Seekers Centre is a place of hospitality and welcome.

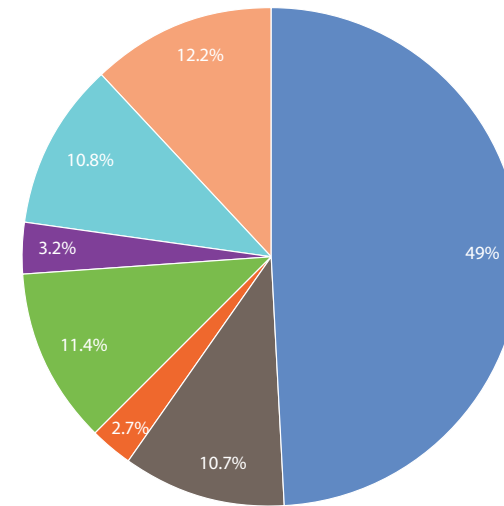
It is an oasis for many people, a safe place for those who have fled situations of great danger.

Our Clients

Our clients come from over 74 countries in search of safety, protection and freedom.

During 2013-14, we cared for over 1,430 asylum seekers with the majority of new clients coming from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Iran, Sri Lanka and Fiji. On arrival at the Centre, 49% were homeless and in need of financial support, 50% had no work rights, 70% received absolutely no government support and 35% had no Medicare. Of our new clients, 85% arrived by plane and 15% arrived by boat.

Primary needs of asylum seekers on arrival



- Homelessness & Financial
- Employment
- Education & Nutrition
- Legal
- Material Aid
- Health
- Other

During 2013-14 we provided

- +7,800 casework consultations
- +16,654 accommodation nights
- +3,500 health consultations
- +450 pharmaceutical prescriptions
- +3,120 one-on-one job consultations
- +7,000 hot meals
- +7,000 food parcels
- +3,000 classroom hours
- +2,100 recreational hours

“

I want to thank the Asylum Seekers Centre for helping me build a new life. All I am now is because of them.

They were the first people who helped me in Australia.

They helped me get my Protection Visa, they found me somewhere to sleep, they helped me with my health needs and they helped me improve my English.

I owe them so much.

Antoinette.

”

We provide our clients with services that promote self sufficiency and independence to help them build the foundations for a new life in Australia.



Accommodation & Housing

When they arrive at our door approximately half of our clients are homeless or about to become homeless if they are not given financial assistance. We provide them with emergency housing while we look for longer term accommodation with other agencies or in the private market. To meet the increasing needs of our clients, the Centre is now leasing suitable and affordable short-term accommodation. This provides our clients with a safe place to stay while they seek a stable source of income or financial support.

Financial Relief

Many asylum seekers are not eligible for any government financial support and the majority of our clients have no work rights. Of those with work rights, there are many barriers to obtaining employment, such as lack of local experience, having no local referees and not having their qualifications recognised. We provide emergency financial relief to clients who have no other source of income and help them find longer term assistance from other not-for-profit organisations.

Legal Advice

We provide our clients with legal advice and assistance throughout the complex process of applying for protection. This service is particularly vital for those facing language barriers or who have experienced torture and trauma.

Health Care & Counselling

We provide medical care for clients who are not eligible for Medicare and do not have any financial income.

The ASC runs regular clinics in general medicine, oral health, physiotherapy, osteopathy and mental health. All of these services are supplied pro bono by our broad network of health care providers. We also assist with referrals to external health care specialists and advocate for fee-waivers for specialist consultations and emergency treatment at public hospitals.

Employment Assistance

Asylum seekers have a strong work ethic and desire to contribute to the community. They have a diverse range of skills and experience from their countries of origin and are highly motivated to find work.

Working in partnership with employers, we provide a free employment service and offer ongoing workplace support once a position has been filled to facilitate retention. All of our job seekers have been granted work visas by the government. This means they have full work rights and are legally able to work in Australia.

We also help our clients prepare for the job market by assisting them with their resumes, supporting them through the job application process and familiarising them with the Australian workplace culture.



“

When we told staff we were employing an asylum seeker some were a little hesitant having had no experience with them. Our employee changed that. He turned up early every day with a smile on his face and approached every task asked of him with enthusiasm. He is a great worker. It was a great learning experience for us all.

Watson Buchan Surveyors

”

Our microloans program offers them interest free loans up to \$1,200 to help with the purchase of uniforms or tools, to meet the costs of vocational training or to start their own business.

Nutrition & Material Support

A team of generous volunteers provides daily nutritious lunches for clients. These lunches set the tone for our welcoming environment and present a much needed opportunity for clients to engage socially. We also provide a Food Bank service to clients to help them maintain a healthy diet at home.

Education

We run regular English classes which are taught by professionally trained and experienced volunteer ESL teachers. These are tailored for clients with different levels of English and held in a group environment or one on one for those with specific needs. Our weekly computer classes help clients set up email accounts, navigate the internet, format their resumes and address any general computer questions they have.

Social Support

Our recreation program aims to reduce the social isolation experienced by asylum seekers and create a connection for them with the local community. Not only have they had to leave their home country, but also their community and often their family. Apart from the stress of seeking asylum, they often suffer from extreme loneliness. We provide a range of regular physical activities and fitness classes as well as creative outlets that include gardening, art, music and excursions to local Sydney attractions.

Advocacy

The Centre also advocates for a fair and equal opportunity for asylum seekers to partake and contribute to the community.



Support Us

We need your help. In order to continue to provide the vital services our clients need, we rely on the generosity of people like you. With no federal government funding most of our support comes from individuals as well as foundations and trusts. Your support means that we can continue to help women, men and children fleeing conflict, persecution, civil unrest or war. **You can make a difference by:**

Making a Donation

Make a donation today using the enclosed form, via our website or by sending a cheque and your contribution will directly support our clients by providing them with casework support, health care and counselling, accommodation and food. In addition, we provide language, skills training and employment assistance to promote self sufficiency, job placement and the foundations for life in Australia.

By making a regular, monthly gift you can help us better plan and budget to ensure that we support as many asylum seekers as possible.

With a donation of:

- **\$1000** you can provide 30 asylum seekers with one-on-one casework which assesses the critical needs of each client and provides vital ongoing support
- **\$500** you can help up to 10 asylum seekers with essential pharmaceuticals
- **\$350** you can provide two weeks of emergency accommodation for an asylum seeker family
- **\$250** you can help pay for medical imaging and pathology for one client
- **\$100** you can provide a food parcel and a weekly train ticket to three asylum seekers

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

Community Information Evenings

We run quarterly Community Information Evenings where we present an overview of the global and national asylum seeker situation, the services we provide at the Centre as well as information on how to become a volunteer. If you would like to attend, visit our web site to register.



Volunteer with Us

We are supported by a team of over 270 generous volunteers who are the heart and soul of the Centre. Volunteers are crucially important in assisting us serve our clients. If you are interested in joining the team, you must attend one of our Community Information Evenings in order to register.

Leave a lasting Gift

Leaving a bequest to the Asylum Seekers Centre is one of the most significant methods of ensuring that you leave a legacy that continues to benefit asylum seekers, honours your memory and your ideals. To make a bequest please call our fundraising manager to obtain an information kit.

Arrange a Community Event

Encourage your family, friends and community to support asylum seekers. Call our fundraising manager to obtain a copy of our Community Fundraising Kit.

Food Donations

You can ensure that no asylum seeker goes hungry by providing unopened, in date goods. Please check our web site for a list of foodstuffs and toiletries which are most sought after.

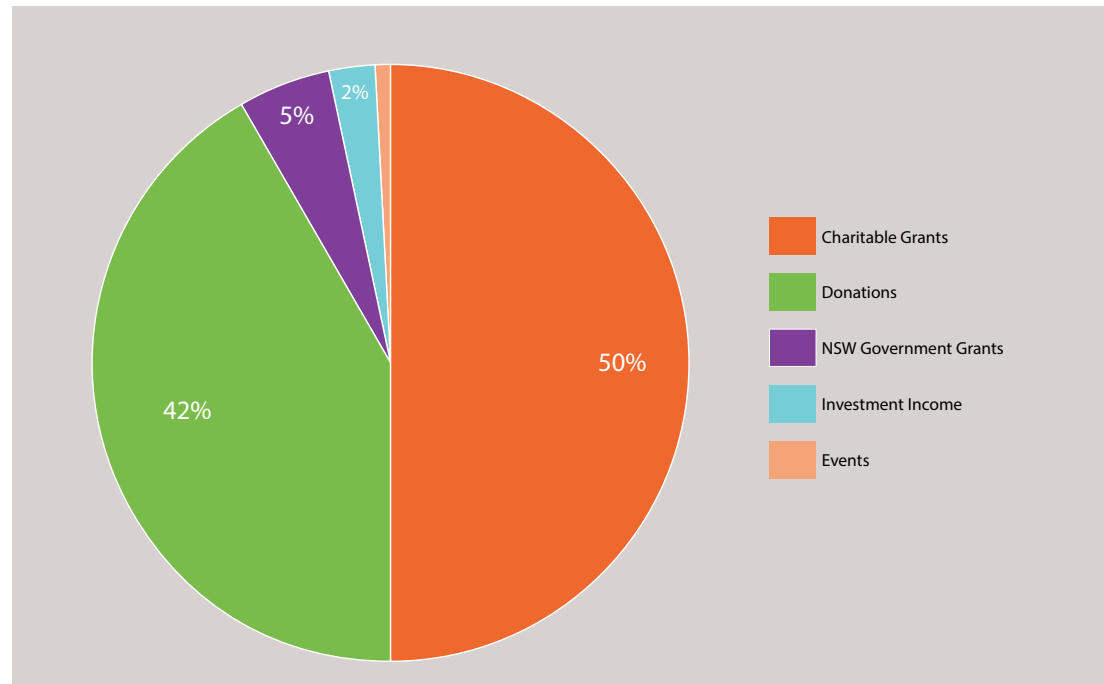
Material Donations

You can help asylum seekers by donating laptops or tablets that assist with education, seeking employment and staying in touch with loved ones. We also run particular campaigns during winter.

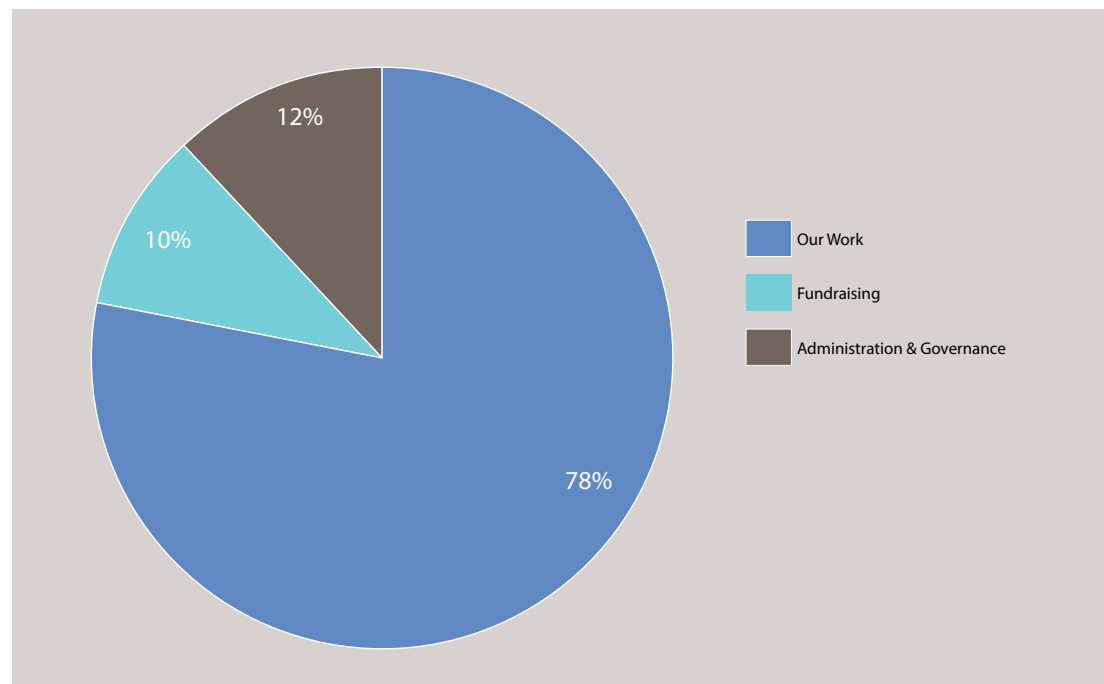
Please note that we cannot accept clothing, bed linen or toys due to lack of space but please donate them to your local Salvation Army or St Vincents de Paul who also assist asylum seekers.

Thank You

How we are funded



How we use our funds



YES, I want to help the Asylum Seekers Centre provide food, healthcare, accommodation and other vital services to over 1,100 women, men and children.



I want to volunteer I want to stay informed

I want to make a tax-deductible gift:
 Monthly \$
 One-off \$500 \$250 \$100 Other \$

Cheque Visa Mastercard Amex

Credit Card Number

Expiry /

Name on Card: Signature:

Or make a donation via our web asylumseekerscentre.org.au or by calling **02 9078 1900**

Name

Address

Phone Email

The Asylum Seekers Centre respects your privacy in line with The Privacy Act Cth (1998). If you do not wish to stay informed, tick this box.



Acknowledgements

Thank you to the following people and organisations for their services:
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