



CENTRE ASYLUM SEEKERS

Asylum Seekers Centre Annual Report 2015-2016

ABN: 47 164 509 475

Starting Again

“Back home I was a physician – specializing in public health care. Now – I am working as an orderly in St. Vincent’s Private Hospital.

When I arrived in Australia, I was given the right to work while I waited for my application for protection to be processed. But I could not find a job immediately. You feel like you are begging. You realize how much you have fallen down. A situation that I had never expected in my life. I was thinking that it was a bad dream, and maybe one day I would wake up and realize that it was over.

Having a job has made many changes in my life. I am no longer staying at home doing nothing. I am working and earning money. It has helped to bring back my dignity. I feel like I am really living again. I am no longer a beggar – but a human being who is able to win his own bread.

I want to thank the Asylum Seekers Centre for their support right from the beginning, during the early period after we arrived through to where I am now.”

Desire Ndisabiye

Africa

Contents

Our Vision	04
About Us	05
Our Patrons	07
Our Ambassadors	08
Our Board	10
Chair's Report	12
CEO's Report	13
What We Do	14
Our Volunteers	18
Community Engagement	21
Fundraising	22
Financials	24
Our Supporters	26
Acknowledgements & Contact Details	28

Our Vision

Australia opens its heart to people seeking asylum. Recognising our shared humanity with those seeking safety in Australia, we extend our welcome, respect and support.

We are a stronger and more vibrant country as a result.

About Us

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.

We provide practical and personal support for people living in the community who are seeking asylum.

Our Purpose

- Provide support and services for people seeking asylum to enable them to become independent and valued members of the community.
- Advocate for a supportive policy and service framework that recognizes the rights and needs of people seeking asylum in Australia – regardless of how they arrive.
- Create a welcoming and supportive community – involving people from all walks of life in our work while building understanding of asylum issues and support for people seeking asylum.

Our Values

- A people centred service. We focus on the needs of people seeking asylum, adjusting what we do and how we work in response to their strengths and capabilities.
- An organisation operating within a strong human rights framework. We respect the rights of people seeking safety through asylum in Australia and work with them to realise their human right to live in peace and free from danger.

- A collaborative partnership. We work with people seeking asylum, our volunteers, other sector agencies, donors and supporters, to provide the best possible service.
- An accountable and transparent agency. We follow standards of good practice for NGOs and critically reflect on our work so we can keep improving our services and have greater social impact.

Our Services

Our services promote self sufficiency and independence to help people seeking asylum build the foundations for a new life in Australia.

- Accommodation
- Financial relief
- Legal advice
- Health care and counselling
- Employment assistance
- Food and material aid
- Education and social support

People We Support

During 2015-2016, we cared for over 1,655 people seeking asylum, 1,058 of whom had newly arrived at the Centre. They came from 75 countries including Iran, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

During 2015-2016 we provided:

64 families and individuals with accommodation

927 legal consultations

350 people with financial relief

1,500 health assessments

300 pharmaceutical prescriptions

216 people placed in jobs

4,168 job coaching sessions

418 children assisted with school enrolment

10,500 hot meals and 16,543 food parcels

2,750 classroom hours and 6,540 recreational hours



Our Patrons



Bruce Baird AM

As a member of the NSW Parliament, Bruce Baird was Minister for Transport from 1988 to 1995, Minister for Sydney's Olympic Bid from 1990 to 1993, Minister for Tourism and Roads from 1993 to 1995 and Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party in State Parliament from 1992 to 1995.

In Federal Parliament, he was the Member for Cook, NSW, from 1998 to 2007, Chairman of the Economics Committee and a member of the Human Rights Committee.

Bruce has had a distinguished career in both the public and private sectors. In 2008 he was appointed Chair of the Refugee Resettlement Advisory Council which advises the government on refugee and humanitarian settlement in Australia. He is also Chairman of the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator.



Hugh Mackay AO

Australia's pre-eminent social researcher, Hugh Mackay is internationally recognised for his pioneering work in this area. He is the author of seventeen books – 11 in the field of social psychology and ethics, and six novels. His latest nonfiction book, *Beyond Belief*, was published in 2016.

Hugh is a Fellow of the Australian Psychological Society and has been awarded honorary doctorates by four Australian universities. He has been a newspaper columnist and media commentator for over 25 years, and is a former deputy chairman of the Australia Council and Chairman of Trustees of Sydney Grammar School. He was the inaugural chairman of the ACT Government's Community Inclusion Board.



John Menadue AO

John Menadue has had a distinguished career in the public sector, including as Head of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet under two Prime Ministers, Gough Whitlam and Malcolm Fraser. He was Ambassador to Japan as well as Secretary of the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, and the Department of Trade.

Private sector appointments included General Manager, News Limited, Sydney. He was also CEO of Qantas, a Director of Telstra and Chair of the Australia-Japan Foundation.

John was Founding Chair and is a Fellow of the Centre for Policy Development.

Our Ambassadors



Thomas Keneally AO

An Australian Living Treasure and one of our most successful authors, Tom is best known for his Booker Prize winning novel *Schindler's Ark*, later adapted to Steven Spielberg's *Schindler's List* which won an Academy Award for Best Picture. He has also been shortlisted three more times for the Booker, won the Miles Franklin Award, the Prime Minister's Literary Award, the New South Wales Premier's Literary Award and the Helmerich Award. Tom co-authored *A Country Too Far*, a landmark anthology by 27 of Australia's finest writers which confirms that the experience of seeking asylum – the journeys of escape from death, starvation, poverty or terror to an imagined paradise – is part of the Australian mindset and deeply embedded in our culture. Tom has a passionate commitment and deep understanding of why people come to our country seeking safety and protection.



Antoinette Parsons

Antoinette came to Australia in 2008 to escape the political persecution and violence taking place in her home country. She had lost everything – her 3 sons, her husband, her parents and several of her siblings. Later that year, she told her story at a fundraising lunch and a video of her speech was placed on YouTube. Within a week, a lawyer in France who had been acting on behalf of three young asylum seekers from Africa, contacted her. Her sons had escaped and were living safely together and studying in France. They have since been happily reunited. Now an Australian citizen, Antoinette has bravely shared her personal story to increase awareness of why people come to Australia seeking safety and freedom. She is an outstanding example of the wonderful citizens that asylum seekers become and the rich texture of their contribution to our country.



Wendy Sharpe

Wendy Sharpe is one of Australia's most awarded artists. She has won many major national awards, scholarships and prizes including The Archibald Prize, The Sulman Prize and The Portia Geach Memorial Award (twice). Major commissions include the olympic pool size mural for Cook and Phillip Park Aquatic Centre, Sydney; Australian Official Artist to East Timor 1999 and many others. Wendy has also been a member of the Council of the Australian War Memorial for eight years. She has been awarded many international artist residencies including two in Paris, one in Egypt and two in Antarctica. Wendy has held over 40 solo exhibitions around Australia and internationally. Her exhibition, 'Seeking Humanity', which comprised 39 portraits of people seeking asylum and refugees, made an enormous contribution to the perception of people seeking asylum at all levels of society.



Saba Vasefi

Saba Vasefi is an Iranian-Australian academic, feminist filmmaker, poet and human rights activist.

In Iran, she was a Member of the Committee of Human Rights Reporters and worked as a journalist for the International Campaign for Human Rights. Saba's master's thesis in Feminist Literary Criticism received the highest grade possible in Iran. At twenty-four she became a lecturer at the prestigious Shahid Beheshti University in Iran, but after four years was banned from teaching due to her activism against capital punishment. Saba has made a number of acclaimed documentaries and spoken about women's and children's issues at the UN, Amnesty International and numerous universities around the world. Since her arrival in Australia, her passion and commitment to human rights has continued.

Our Board



Steve Bradley: Chair

Steve has over 25 years' senior executive experience in some of Australia's largest corporations. He concluded his full time working career at Woolworths where he was the Chief Logistics and Information Officer responsible for the supply chain and information technology. He is passionate about innovation and change in organisations and has led some of the largest change programs in Australia. Since finishing full time work he has been the Chairman of Outback Stores, a director of a large superannuation fund and consulted to a significant range of Australian and NZ businesses.



Clare Petre: Deputy Chair

Clare has had a long term career in the government, community and media sectors. She previously held the position of Energy & Water Ombudsman NSW for over 16 years and prior to that was a Senior Assistant Commonwealth Ombudsman. Clare is a Board member of City West Housing, Board member of Energy Consumers Australia, Chair of ASIC Consumer Advisory Panel, Chair of Credit & Investments Ombudsman Consumer Advisory Committee and Chair of Code of Conduct Committee of the Australia Council for International Development. She has served on a range of NSW and Commonwealth government advisory bodies as well as the boards of community groups, including ACOSS and Performance Space.



Jack Thomas: Secretary

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



Steven Glass

Partner in the law firm Gilbert+Tobin. Steven has practised for 29 years, specialising in commercial litigation. For 13 years he has led the firm's pro bono refugee practice. Steven has been a regular visitor to Christmas Island and other detention centres to represent asylum seekers.



Tom Gregory

Tom has more than 35 years of international finance and management experience, including 28 years as Chief Executive of a company of which he is currently Non Executive Chairman. For over a decade, he was Non Executive Director of a not-for-profit publisher, and is head of a Private Ancillary Fund he established in 2002. Tom and his parents arrived in Australia as refugees.



Betty Hounslow

Betty has over 30 years' experience in the community sector, with her last job in the paid workforce being Deputy CEO of The Fred Hollows Foundation. She has worked in community legal centres and women's refuges, been the Executive Director of ACROSS (the national advocacy body for low income and disadvantaged people), and Vice-President of ACFID (the peak body for international aid agencies). Her activism around the rights of refugees and migrants started in the early 1980s.



Graham Thom

Refugee Coordinator, Amnesty International Australia. Graham has visited detention centres and refugee camps in Australia and throughout the region. He has previously chaired the NSW Asylum Seeker Interagency. In 2013, Graham undertook research on policies relating to the resettlement of vulnerable children, including unaccompanied minors. His research, which involved travelling to Indonesia, Kenya and Jordan, was published in 2015. That year he also undertook further research in Indonesia. In 2016 Graham attended UNHCR Consultations in Geneva and was in New York for the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants.

Chair's Report



The plight of refugees and people seeking asylum has deteriorated significantly in the last year. The UNHCR reports that there are now 65.3 million forcibly displaced people around the world, up from 51 million in 2013. Most of these people would prefer to return to their home but are prevented from doing so by the situation in their country. The impact of major conflict on innocent people has clearly increased and there are no easy solutions.

In Australia, the government has done its best to keep the plight of refugees in our care, and particularly on Manus Island and Nauru, out of the national spotlight. At the Centre we support people who have been the recipients of this treatment and many have been deeply harmed by it. It is clear that acts are being committed to innocent people on our behalf that as a nation we should be deeply ashamed of.

Against this disappointing national approach, the Centre and its partners have continued to do what we have always been known for, providing practical help in a warm, caring and welcoming environment to those seeking asylum in Australia.

This year the Centre supported a record number of people with the total growing from 1,238 to over 1,655. All our services have grown to respond to the increased need, but in particular the employment service has grown by 148% placing 216 people in work. Employment is so important – it provides people with independence and meaning as they build their new lives.

We could not have achieved this without the generosity of our supporters. Total income rose by over 29% to \$2,719,307 and total expenditure rose by approx 18% to \$2,416,578. The increase in expenditure is attributable to a significant rise in the number of people needing support. The Centre expended approx 80% on Aid & Services and Centre Direct Running Costs, 10% on Accountability & Administration and 10% on Fundraising.

Our CEO, Melanie Noden, left in December after making a great contribution to the Centre over three years. We have been fortunate to secure the services of Frances Rush as our new CEO. Frances has been associated with the Centre for over 20 years, including as a director, and I am

very confident that the Centre will continue to thrive under her leadership.

Two long serving directors resigned during the year as part of our planned program of Board renewal. I would like to thank Lachlan Murdoch and Chris Fogarty for their great contribution over many years. Clare Petre joined the Board during the year and brings expertise in media, communications and advocacy.

This will be my last report as I vacated the Chair in June 2016. The Board unanimously elected Clare Petre as the new Chair and I am very confident for the future of the Centre under her leadership.

Finally, I would like to thank all the volunteers and staff for their enthusiasm and commitment throughout the year. I have been constantly inspired by them and know the difference they make to the lives of so many people.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "S Bradley".

Steve Bradley
Chair
Asylum Seekers Centre

CEO's Report



Over the last five years, the number of people arriving at the Centre seeking practical and personal support has quadrupled. From 447 people in 2011-2012, this year we cared for 1,655 people, 1,058 of whom were new arrivals. They came from 75 countries, including Iran, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

For many, the Centre is the first organisation they meet in Australia dedicated to working with them. By providing accommodation, healthcare, legal advice, employment assistance, hot meals and basic material support, we are able to meet their most urgent and immediate needs. All those involved in our Centre, including the now 370 active volunteers, have much to be proud of. Among our many achievements during the year, the highlights include:

- Providing 64 families and individuals with accommodation
- Placing 216 people in jobs
- Providing 927 legal consultations
- Providing 1,500 health assessments
- Providing 350 people with financial relief

- Assisting 418 children with school enrolment
- Providing 10,500 hot meals and 16,543 food parcels

Since assuming the role of Chief Executive Officer in December 2015, I have focused on developing a new Strategic Plan 2016-2018 to ensure that while we continue to provide our core services, we remain flexible and able to adjust to the impact of a constantly changing political landscape. To do this our staff conducted roundtable feedback sessions with our volunteers and with the people we support. We did this in language and cultural groups and also by gender. Our purpose is to create a welcoming and supportive community for people seeking asylum, provide practical and personal support and advocate to ensure that people's human rights are respected.

This year saw the creation of NAPSA (NSW Alliance for People Seeking Asylum) which is comprised of the Asylum Seekers Centre, Refugee Advice & Casework Service (RACS), Jesuit Refugee Service Australia (JRS), House of Welcome (HOW), Red

Cross and St Vincent de Paul. By working closely together we aim to achieve systemic change and provide complementary services.

All of this has been achieved through a myriad of relationships and networks formed with our donors and partners – individuals, community and religious organisations, businesses and philanthropic foundations. Their combined generosity and the enthusiasm and hard work of our Board, staff and volunteers, have enabled the ASC to provide a wide and diverse range of services. I would like to acknowledge and thank you all for this support.

As I continue to be amazed and inspired by the resilience, strength and courage of people seeking asylum, our challenge in 2017 is to continue to work together and learn from each other to further improve and develop the services and outcomes that we can provide.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Frances Rush'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'F' and 'R'.

Frances Rush
Chief Executive Officer

What we do



Dr Jacob Stretton, volunteer dentist.

Casework

The Casework Service is the first point of contact for all new people who arrive at the Centre, often the first organisation they meet in Australia dedicated to working with them. Staffed by social workers who specialise in working with those seeking protection, the team sensitively assess and prioritise the needs of every person requesting assistance. Based on this, the Service provides crisis to medium-term accommodation, financial relief, tailored support plans and advocacy.

Major Achievements 2015-2016

- Provided financial relief for over 350 people in destitution.
- Provided accommodation to 64 individuals and families experiencing homelessness.
- Assisted 418 children to enrol

and attend school, often for the first time in Australia.

- Successfully advocated for people with complex needs such as mental health, gender and sexual diversity, domestic violence, children at risk, labour and sexual exploitation, intellectual and physical disabilities.

Legal

The Legal Service, a joint project between Refugee Advice and Casework Service (RACS) and the ASC, provides asylum seekers with legal advice and assistance. This work ranges from protection visa applications, appeals, work rights applications, bridging visa issues and other related matters. Managed by a lawyer and practical legal trainee students, the Service is assisted by pro-bono work undertaken by Gilbert+Tobin,

Hicksons Lawyers and an independent volunteer lawyer.

Major Achievements 2015-2016

- Provided 927 legal advice consultations.
- Conducted 223 assessments for people seeking financial support to ensure their protection claims have legal merit.
- Co-ordinated regularly weekly legal clinics by Gilbert+Tobin and Hicksons Lawyers and facilitated on-going assistance for 90 people.
- Engaged eight legal interns.
- Provided training on refugee law and policy to ASC staff and volunteers.

Health

The Service established partnerships with Sydney Local Health District, including RPAH pharmacy, and continued an

outreach clinic with STARTTS. St Vincent's Private Hospital continued to provide the following services:

- Imaging including ultrasounds, x-rays and CT scans.
- Pharmaceuticals.
- Provision of medical supplies and equipment.
- Biomedical engineering: maintenance of equipment and tagging.

We also advocated for people to access emergency treatment in NSW public hospitals.

Major Achievements 2015-2016

- Implementation of Electronic medical Record (EmR).
- Provided 1,500 health assessments.
- Provided 300 prescriptions.
- Provided 231 assessments by RN's following initial assessments for referral to medical specialists and health promotion/education.
- Provided 190 oral health/dental consultations at ASC.
- Provided over 850 physiotherapy, counselling, optometry consultations and treatments.

Employment

Our Employment Service, the only one of its kind in NSW, assists people seeking asylum to reconnect with their profession, gain meaningful employment and recover the dignity and independence of work.

The Service takes a holistic and people centred approach with the focus on skills, behaviours and networks that result in paid

employment. It is resourced by 2.5 staff and 48 volunteers who work one-on-one with people to understand their needs and goals. Opportunities include participating in our education program, jobs within our employer network and ongoing coaching.

Major Achievements 2015-2016

- 216 people placed in jobs – increase from 145 in previous year.
- 4,168 job coaching sessions.
- 78 people attended work related training.
- Partnered with 74 employers to support their ongoing resourcing needs.
- Supported more than 100 employers with ad hoc recruitment requirements.

Education

Speaking and understanding English plays an integral role in people's ability to rebuild their lives in the community. English classes are taught daily for beginner and intermediate levels while referrals are made to other free courses around the city. Pronunciation tutorials occur once a week with a speech therapist. Computer tutors are available every day for people who have technical difficulties using the phone/internet or want to improve their general computing skills.

Major Achievements 2015-2016

- 2,750 classroom hours - increase from 2,500 in previous year.
- Recruitment of pro-bono computer tutors.

- Workshops in conjunction with the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network regarding phone/internet plans and OzHarvest's Nutrition Education Sustenance Training program on healthy eating.

Social Support

Our social and recreational activities cover a wide range of interests, including arts and craft, fitness, sport, gardening, music and a swimming program held in partnership with the Annette Kellerman Pool. These activities help clients to relax, connect with others and feel less isolated. Families also engage through a weekly children's playgroup, which helps integrate those with preschool children who often feel isolated and overwhelmed. Regular excursions are held which could be a coastal walk, a trip to the theatre, seeing an exhibition or going to a museum. These are extremely popular and a welcome relief for many while they go through unsettling times.

Major Achievements 2015-16

- 6,540 recreational hours – increase from 3,060 in previous year.
- 322 people assisted with applications for travel concession Opal cards.
- Regular feedback forums.
- Creation of a new database to inform people of upcoming activities



What we do continued



Members of the Piecemakers delivering some of the beautiful toiletry packs.

Nutrition and Material Support

Our lunch program continued to grow with community groups and approx 150 volunteers providing daily hot lunches. People's nutritional needs were further supplemented by generous contributions from Simple Love, St Vincent de Paul, OzHarvest, community groups, schools and individuals. Material aid has come through the generosity of community groups such as Mummies Paying It Forward, St Vincent's Private Hospital and the Piecemakers.

Major Achievements 2015-16

- 10,500 hot meals – increase from 8,760 in previous year.
- 16,543 food parcels – increase from 7,777 in previous year.
- Partnered with Thread Together to hold two market days to provide new clothes.
- Partnered with Rough Threads to hold a wellness market with beauty products, haircuts, makeup and massages.

Our Volunteers



Carolyn Benn, Volunteer

Our team of dedicated and passionate volunteers continues to be the most vital resource at the Centre. Coming from a wide range of backgrounds and professions, their contribution has enabled us to provide holistic support to the many people who come to our door seeking comfort and assistance.

We now have 370 active volunteers with a further 1,732 on the waiting list to become involved.

This year we have dedicated time to a consultative process to listen to their ideas on how the Centre should move forward during the current strategic review.

There has been volunteer involvement in events held outside of the Centre, with some running advocacy and fundraising events themselves! We have also had an

increase of volunteer support in areas such as donor relations, grant writing, policy writing and operational matters as well as the establishment of our Community Speakers Program with 25 volunteers participating as speakers.

We've strengthened relationships with our partner agencies through the collaboration of our volunteers at events such as Chasing Asylum, highlighting the importance of the sector working together.

The energy and commitment of our volunteers continue to strengthen our service delivery, enabling us to provide a safe and welcoming environment and meet the needs of people seeking asylum in the community.

Major Achievements during 2015-2016

- Increase in the number of volunteers actively involved – 7%.
- Increase in number of people on waiting list wanting to become involved – 112%.
- More variety in volunteer roles offered.
- Established ongoing relationships with colleges and universities who provide student placements.
- Training sessions held for volunteers on key issues relevant to their area, e.g. legal process, working with asylum seeker children, accidental counselling etc.

Music is a language

“I initially started volunteering at the Centre as an English teacher but quickly realised there was also room for my first love – music.

Music is a language ... a language with the power to connect people across linguistic, political, religious and social barriers. It is non-threatening and very, very forgiving. It draws us together in times of laughter and moments of reflection. Anyone can participate.

In our music room, laughter is a constant companion and a welcome release for many whose lives are filled with uncertainty and fear.

I am constantly amazed by the resilience, the hope, the determination, and the sheer courage of people seeking asylum who persevere in spite of huge obstacles.

Being part of a truly committed, caring team of volunteers and staff gives me the very precious sense of making a difference - however small - in the lives of those we assist. I feel useful, involved and connected and have a deepened respect for cultural distinctions.”

Carolyn Benn

Volunteer



Image: Deng Adut at Speaking of Freedom, Refugee Week 2016.

Community Engagement

During the year we launched our new Community Speakers Program in response to the increasing number of requests we receive from community groups, schools and other organisations wanting to learn more about the challenges and needs of people seeking asylum.

We have learnt that many people are concerned about the unfair treatment of people seeking asylum and want to know how they can help. Access to factual information, so often missing in the public debate, is a fundamental element of a harmonious community. Through this free program we aim to challenge negative perceptions and myths and increase community awareness and understanding of people seeking asylum, who they are, why they flee their homelands and the challenges they face on arrival in Australia. And most importantly, the incredible contribution they make economically, socially and culturally to our communities.

We have a network of over 25 professionally trained volunteer speakers who are now addressing community groups throughout the greater Sydney region and it has been heartwarming to receive so much positive feedback and support for the program.

Our staff also continued to represent the Centre and advocate on behalf of people seeking asylum at many public events throughout the year.

Our most high profile event of the year, *Speaking of Freedom*, was held to celebrate Refugee Week 2016, in partnership with the City of Sydney. Over 700 guests filled the Lower Town Hall to support the positive contributions made by people seeking asylum and

refugees to Australian society. Hosted by ABC journalist Julia Baird, guest speakers included former Sudanese child soldier, now internationally renowned human rights lawyer, Deng Adut, and Dr Peter Young, former Medical Director of Mental Health for Australia's detention centres.

In partnership with Amnesty International, RCOA and RACS, we also hosted a preview screening of *Chasing Asylum* produced by Academy and Emmy Award winning Australian film producer, Eva Orner. The film took us on a journey through the rawest of emotions experienced by those caught up in the system – people held in endless detention, their families left behind at home, and workers within detention facilities searching desperately for ways to help people in impossible circumstances.

Seeking Humanity, a selection of works by renowned Australian artist and ASC Ambassador, Wendy Sharpe, continued to tour throughout New South Wales and to Queensland. Wendy drew portraits of 39 people seeking asylum and refugees, enabling us to share their lives and see that underneath all the troubles and politics surrounding the issue, we are all the same.

Fundraising

We are very fortunate to have a highly committed and generous community of donors and partners supporting our work – individuals, community and religious organisations, businesses and philanthropic foundations.

While their particular connection and involvement with the ASC varies, an underlying motivation or passion is common – to be part of a community which truly welcomes and provides practical support to people seeking asylum.

To all of our donors and partners – thank you. We greatly appreciate your support.

In 2015-2016, our overall fundraising income continued to grow steadily, increasing 29% on the previous year. Principle income sources continued to be donations from individuals, grants from trusts and foundations and community fundraising. Planning is now underway to diversify our funding sources, particularly in the areas of planned giving, corporate and community partnerships, in order to create a more sustainable source of income.

Gross fundraising income for the year was \$1,910,038 (2015 \$1,258,417) with corresponding fundraising expenditure of \$250,329 (2015 \$166,704). These figures exclude grants and other income. The total expenditure for the financial year was \$2,416,578. The Centre expended approx 80% on Aid & Services and Centre Direct Running Costs, 10% on Accountability & Administration and 10% on Fundraising.

Grants from philanthropic foundations are a core part of the Centre's funding base. We are very grateful for the ongoing commitment and trust shown by some of Australia's leading and long-standing private and family foundations.

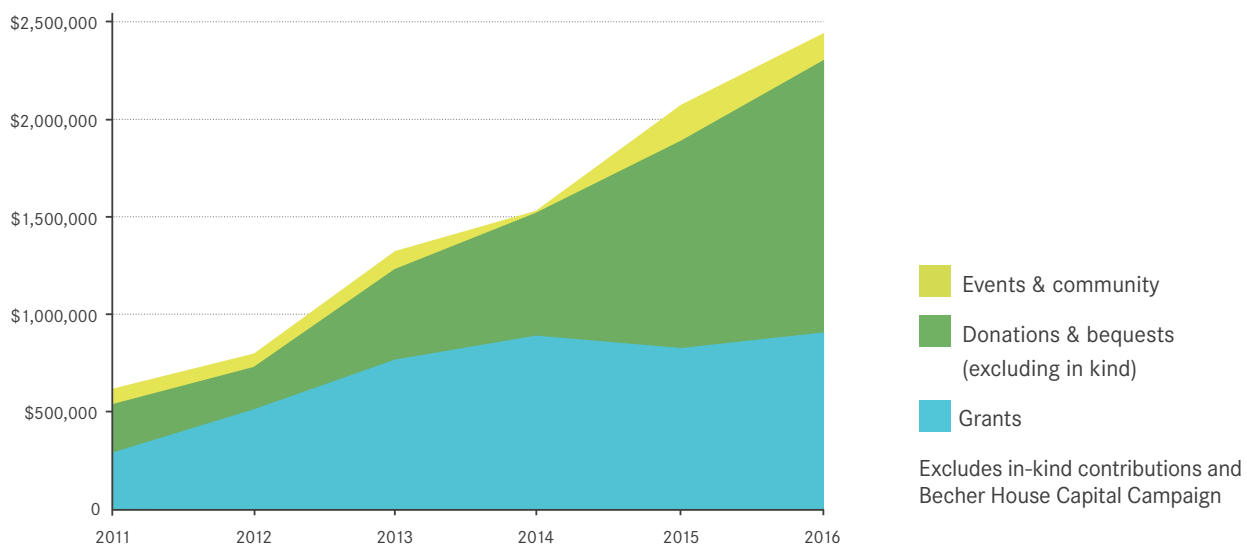
During the year we also received funding for specific programs from new foundation

partners, which allowed the Centre to further diversify its range of services.

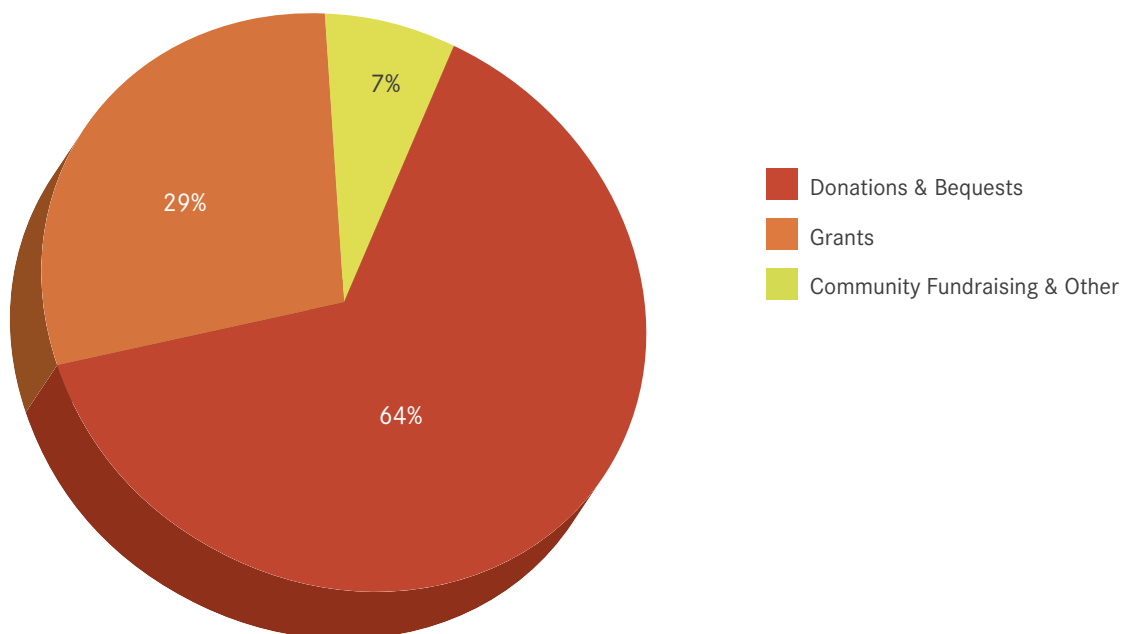
We also secured an important funding partnership with the Sydney Local Health District of NSW Health which will fund the Centre's Health Manager position over three years.

Fundraising by community organisations and individuals continued to grow with activities ranging from circus shows and concerts to running events and food stalls run by local children. These wonderful supporters provide both essential donations and valuable promotion to their local communities about the challenges faced by people seeking asylum and how they can help.

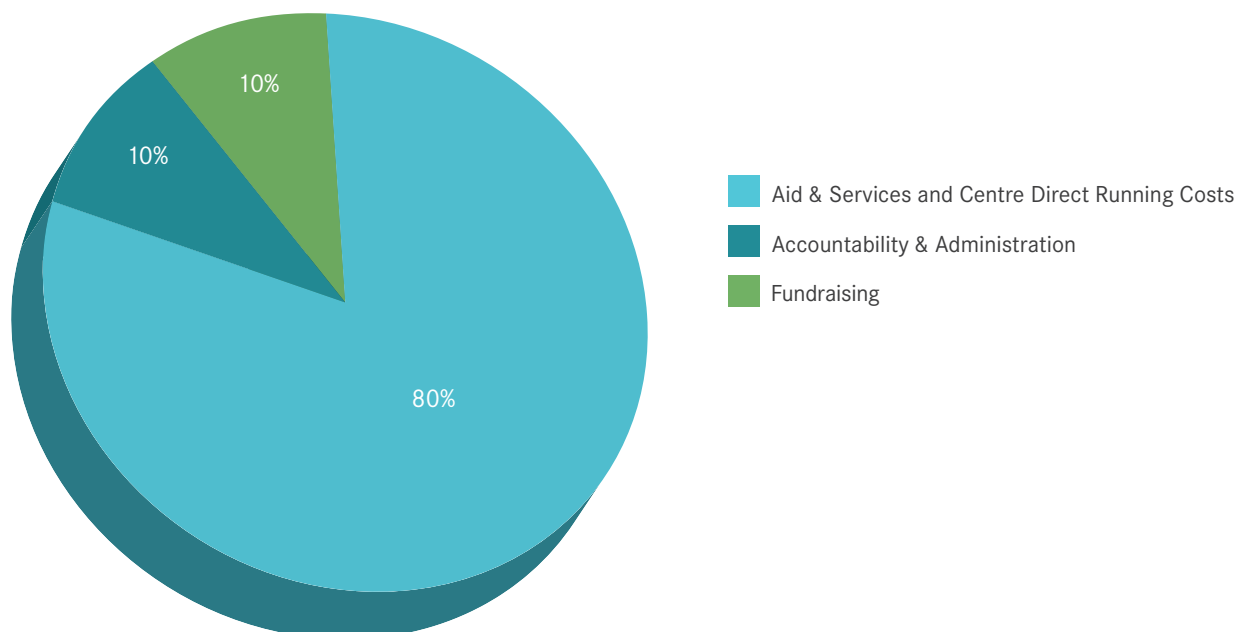
Fundraising Income 2011-2016



How we were funded 2015-2016



How we used our funds 2015-2016



Financial Statements

Profit and Loss Statement and Other Comprehensive Income

Asylum Seekers Centre Incorporated

ABN 47 164 509 475

For the Year Ended 30 June 2016

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Grant income	801,256	826,282
Donations and bequests	1,727,857	1,064,575
Fundraising event revenue	182,181	193,842
Other income	8,013	19,071
Total Income	2,719,307	2,103,770

ASYLUM SEEKER AID & SERVICES

Services

Casework	(297,825)	(292,732)
Legal	(56,247)	(89,248)
Advocacy & community education	(115,505)	(87,775)
Employment assistance	(125,334)	(115,121)
Healthcare	(118,565)	(107,312)
Education & social support	(82,780)	(68,520)
Material aid	(216,238)	(185,881)
Volunteers	(69,904)	(57,453)
Direct services management	(144,828)	(109,974)
Superannuation & leave costs	(88,867)	(73,016)
Total Services	(1,316,093)	(1,187,032)

Aid

Direct emergency financial support	(328,938)	(260,776)
Accommodation	(110,558)	(120,076)
Total Aid	(439,496)	(380,852)

Total Asylum Seeker Aid & Services	(1,755,589)	(1,567,884)
---	--------------------	--------------------

ACCOUNTABILITY, FUNDRAISING & RUNNING COSTS

Accountability & administration	(116,337)	(96,114)
Fundraising costs – events	(8,927)	(32,047)
Fundraising costs – other	(241,402)	(134,657)
Superannuation & leave costs	(36,345)	(20,072)
Running costs	(83,160)	(70,843)
Insurance	(34,864)	(35,940)
IT costs	(64,713)	(41,599)
Building maintenance, rates & utilities	(75,241)	(45,928)
Total Accountability, Fundraising & Running Costs	(660,989)	(477,200)

Surplus before income tax	302,729	58,686
Income tax expense	-	-
Surplus for the year	302,729	58,686
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	-	-
Total comprehensive surplus for the year	302,729	58,686

Statement of Financial Position

Asylum Seekers Centre Incorporated

ABN 47 164 509 475

For the Year Ended 30 June 2016

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	861,743	930,635
Trade and other receivables	7,843	36,400
Current tax receivable	3,219	7,793
Total Current Assets	872,805	974,828
Non Current Assets		
Property, plant and equipment	2,003,655	1,993,355
Total Non Current Assets	2,003,655	1,993,355
Total Assets	2,867,460	2,968,183
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	18,441	10,750
Employee benefits	60,174	52,093
Other financial liabilities	115,829	526,053
Total Current Liabilities	194,444	588,896
Total Liabilities	194,444	588,896
NET ASSETS	2,682,016	2,379,287
EQUITY		
Reserves	66,750	66,750
Retained earnings	2,615,266	2,312,537
Total Equity	2,682,016	2,379,287

Our Supporters

We thank our major supporters who make possible all of our services and support for people seeking asylum.

Barrenjoey High School

Bradley, Steve & Ros

Brass Holdings Pty Ltd

Bridge for Asylum Seekers Foundation

Career Seekers

Carnival Australia

Carole Orbell Graphic Design

Catholic Education Office

Chapman, Fiona

Chester, Shayne

Circus Oz

City of Sydney

Collier Charitable Fund

Culinary Tales

Department of Family and Community Services

Emmett, Brent & Vicki

Ferris Family Foundation

Fries, Vivienne

Gelato Messina

Gilbert + Tobin

Glass, Steven & Michelle

Herbert Smith Freehills Foundation

Horridge, Professor Adrian F.A.A, FRS

James N Kirby Foundation Ltd

Konica Minolta

Lesnie, Warren & Marianne

Loblay, Karen

Lush Cosmetics

McLean Foundation

Macquarie Group Foundation

Mary MacKillop Foundation

Mattick, Peter & Pam

Mazi Mas

Mercy Foundation

Michael Amendolia Photography

Mummies Paying It Forward

Nadia, Cynthia & Burge, Roslyn

NSW Health

OzHarvest

Parliament on King

Pratt Foundation

Reemst, Mary

Rough Threads

Scully Fund

Share The Dignity

Sidney Myer Fund

Simple Love

Social Outfit

St. Brigid's Parish Marrickville

St James Church

St Vincent's Clinic

St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney

Sydney Business Park

The Garrett Riggleman Trust

The Key Foundation

The Nappy Collective

The Piecemakers

The Upper Room

Thread Together

Thundamentals

Velson Enterprise

Weiss, Sam

Wood, Paul & Pamela

Woodruff, Christine & John Philip OAM





Acknowledgements

Images: Michael Amendolia
Tom Keneally in the Tom Keneally Centre
at the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 2012,
© Helen White, reproduced with kind permission
of the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts.

Design: Modeve Design (modeve.com.au)

This Annual Report has been printed free of charge by Konica Minolta. It is printed on SilkHD Matt Paper which is produced in an ISO 14001 accredited facility ensuring all processes involved in production are of the highest environmental standards. SilkHD is made carbon neutral and uses an Elemental Chlorine Free bleaching process.



Asylum Seekers Centre

43 Bedford Street, Newtown,
NSW 2042 Australia

T : (02) 9078 1900 F : (02) 9078 1999
E : admin@asylumseekerscentre.org.au
www.asylumseekerscentre.org.au