

# Support the team breaking down barriers to employment

CENTRE ASYLUM  
SEEKERS



**Finding work has a huge impact on the lives of people seeking asylum. For many, work is their only income while their application for protection is processed, which can take years.**

Please donate to the Asylum Seekers Centre (ASC) and help us assist people to gain meaningful jobs, financial independence and dignity through work.

Our Employment Service is the most established service of its kind in NSW. We have effective, sustainable relationships with employers, training providers and community sector partners that help us foster long-term employment success.

**‘Employment is a critical service at ASC which always has a waitlist – and it takes a team to deliver it well.’**

– Angela Walsh, Employment Service Manager, ASC

**500+**

**people seeking work**

People seeking asylum want to be financially independent. Finding work is their number one priority. They are equipped with varied skills, aspirations and experiences.

**40**

**volunteer job advisors**

Our skilled volunteers work directly with candidates in weekly one-on-one sessions. These job advisors bring extensive professional experience to their coaching roles.

**90+**

**partner employers**

Our partner employers, who share their job vacancies with us, come from more than 20 industry sectors. These partners recognise the value that people seeking asylum bring to their organisations.

**We help each person map their own path to employment, overcoming barriers such as language differences, qualifications recognition and lack of experience in the Australian workforce.**

To do this, we use an individual approach which puts the person at the centre. We highlight their positive attributes and resilience and develop their skills for finding employment.

**‘It’s important that people leave our service with skills, so when they are job seeking they have a better understanding of how to do that in Australia and feel much more confident than when they first arrived here.’**

– Angela Walsh, Employment Service Manager, ASC



# Our Employment Service: Mapping success to find work

## Job advisors

Our volunteer job advisors act as professional mentors, building candidates’ confidence and capability to help them seek work independently. We match the best advisor for each person based on work experience and skills.

People looking for work develop a partnership with their advisor. Together, they explore career goals and channels of opportunity, including certifications and training, volunteering, job networks and connections with our partner employers.

**‘We work with highly skilled people and develop strategies to reconnect them with their professional career. Many candidates have degrees and experiences which are not recognised in Australia and so we look at short and long-term goals for people to re-enter their chosen field.’**

– Bernice Kamikazi, Employment Volunteer Coordinator, ASC

## English classes

A major barrier for people seeking work is English language competency. We offer free daily English classes, and also link people to other agencies.

People with overseas qualifications need advanced English. Developing this takes time, so people often find related work where they can establish networks.

**‘ASC taught me how to progress my English language, all for free. The job I have now is good. I have 15 years’ experience and maybe I can’t work as a doctor just yet but I can work in a related field.’**

– Rani\*

## Resumes and cover letters

A resume and cover letter are vital when applying for a job in Australia.

People seeking asylum come with varied experiences in job hunting. Some have resumes that need rewriting for Australia, and others have never had a resume.

**‘I didn’t know how to write my resume and even if I had wanted to I couldn’t because my English was not good enough at the time. My job advisor spent time asking about my experience in my home country. I needed that help and it was very useful in securing the job I have now held for two years.’**

– Hamed\*

## Workshops

Our work readiness training coaches people on what to expect in an Australian workplace.

**‘We have monthly *What Employers Expect* workshops that help people get their heads around what it’s going to be like day to day in an industry in Australia. Even if they have worked in that industry overseas, it’s not necessarily the same.’**

– Alex Taylor, Employment Coordinator, ASC

Our partner employers run sessions at ASC, such as:

- How to Succeed in the Australian Workforce
- Personal Branding – Bringing Your Personality to an Interview
- Building Your Professional Network
- Using Your Skills to Stand Out in the Jobs Market
- Navigating the Employment Market
- Working in the NSW Care Sector.

## Interview coaching

Our coaching prepares people to present the best professional version of themselves at interviews. We also teach people how to deliver a very short and persuasive summary of their skills so they can seize any opportunity.

This practical process, facilitated by expert recruitment consultants, really makes a difference.

**‘Even though I am a confident professional, I found my session with ASC’s interview coach so helpful because I hadn’t realised how different interviews are in Australia to those in my home country.’**

– Haala\*

## Job networks

Our 90+ partner employers come from a range of industries. They include LUSH Fresh Handmade Cosmetics, Transdev, St Vincent’s Private Hospital, Gelato Messina, Michael Page and Scalabrini Village nursing homes.

**‘We are looking for productive team members to become part of the LUSH community, and that is exactly what we have found through ASC. We’ve had many success stories with people being promoted to leadership positions and starting new careers with us.’**

– Zani Walker, People Support Coordinator, LUSH Handmade Cosmetics

We’re keen to continue developing our network of employers, especially in industries aligned with the people we support. These include administration, customer service, hospitality, childcare, engineering, factories and warehousing, commercial cleaning, IT and retail.

## Vocational training

Local vocational training creates new opportunities for people whose qualifications are not recognised.

We work with TAFE, community colleges and private training providers to help people access certificates and courses that make them more employable. We also help individuals plan their path to vocational study and help them navigate entry into training institutions.

**‘Training provides people seeking asylum with a great opportunity to formalise their skills and be more competitive for that job.’**

– Bruce Cameron, Training Coordinator, ASC

## Post-employment support

We don’t just want to place people in jobs: we want to find the right match for everyone involved.

That’s why we have a dedicated team to provide post-employment support for people in jobs and our partner employers. Staying actively engaged lets us identify the keys to success, where challenges lie, and how we can continuously improve our services and relationships.

**‘Helping people to stay in work, to stay happy and successful has an impact. Checking in to see how they’re travelling shows them they still have support here if they need it in the future. It’s also about checking in with the employer and catching any issues early.’**

– Alex Taylor, Employment Coordinator, ASC

**Donate today to help people develop the skills they need to find work**



# Please donate to support people seeking asylum find work. It's life changing.

Employment changes lives – nothing gives people back their independence and dignity like working and earning their own money.

Our Employment Service has assisted hundreds of people find meaningful jobs. Never before has the need been greater.

The Asylum Seekers Centre provides practical and personal support for people living in the community who are seeking asylum.

## Asylum Seekers Centre

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Front cover: ASC Employment Service team members  
Bernice Kamikazi, Alex Taylor, Angela Walsh.

\*names changed