

# ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

Hope for a safer future



“ I am so happy with the way my story was told by the lawyers. I couldn't have explained what happened to me in the way that RACS did. Thank you RACS for giving me hope.

”

**RACS** REFUGEE  
ADVICE &  
CASEWORK  
SERVICE

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Proudly supported by University of New South Wales. Thank you to UNSW President Ian Jacobs and Dean of Law George Williams for the continuous support.

Thank you to Claus Huttenrauch of KWM for the graphic design and KWM for printing our annual report. We acknowledge the Traditional Owners, Custodians and Elders of the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation, past, present and future, on whose traditional land we work.



**UNSW**  
AUSTRALIA

# President's Foreword



In 2018, the considerable challenges for people seeking asylum and refugees in the Australian community, seeking protection from harm, remain unchanged.

Thankfully RACS, through the support provided by the many friends of RACS and the tireless work of its staff and volunteers, has been able to continue to play its role in providing critical legal support to these extremely vulnerable members of our community with nowhere else to turn.

Following on from assisting more than 5,000 clients with submitting applications for protection in 2017, 2018 has seen RACS assist more than 800 clients at interview across Australia.

Together with successful ongoing programs in judicial review support, outreach and a number of significant projects through the year, RACS continues to adapt to the most critical needs of the refugee community while working within the constraints of its limited resources.

It has been fantastic to be able to celebrate RACS' achievements through recognition of its work. This has included RACS again being a finalist in the 2017 Human Rights Awards, Sarah Dale winning Migration Partner of the Year in the 2018 Australian Law Awards and Tanya Jackson-Vaughan's award as winner of the Social Enterprise and Not For Profit category of the Australian Financial Review 100 Women of Influence 2018 awards.

I would like to thank all of RACS' financial supporters who are critically important in enabling us to continue our work. In particular, I would like to thank the University of New South Wales for their ongoing accommodation support, all our significant foundation donors and our patrons Professor Gillian Triggs and the Honorable Michael Kirby for their support.

As we approach 2019 the need for RACS is stronger than ever. The vast majority of clients who RACS assisted with protection applications in 2016 and 2017 are yet to have their interviews with the Government— the one opportunity under the Fast Track process to make their protection claims in person. The importance of access to legal support for asylum seekers and refugees in Australia is as vital as ever and we hope to have your support at this time of critical need.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Yoo', written in a cursive style.

**Chris Yoo**  
President

# Who is RACS?

The Refugee Advice and Casework Service (RACS) is a community legal centre that has been protecting the human rights of people seeking asylum in Australia since 1987 by providing free legal support. Our lawyers, experienced in human rights law, are committed to ensuring that vulnerable people who have fled from persecution and are seeking protection in Australia, gain access to equal and fair representation before the law.

RACS is the only dedicated organisation in NSW providing legal support at no cost to people seeking asylum.

We provide:

- protection visa application assistance;
- legal advice to transferees from Manus and Nauru;
- legal support to people who arrived as unaccompanied children and are now on Nauru;
- family reunion assistance; and
- a judicial review referral service.

Our Vision:

**Justice & dignity for refugees**



Our Values:

**Respect  
Fairness  
Compassion  
Integrity**

Our Purpose:

**To advocate for fair laws and treatment of refugees**





# Why is our work important?

The majority of people who apply for asylum do so because their lives and safety are under threat from war, violence or human rights abuses in their homeland. Most people do not wish to leave their homes, families, friends and communities they know and love.

More than 60 million people around the world have been forced to flee their homes due to violent conflict.

“ If I didn't have a lawyer, I wouldn't be able to apply. I will never forget what you have done for us. ”

## Alison Ryan, a RACS lawyer explains how we help.



“Every person seeking asylum has their own story. These stories aren't new – they go back centuries. I have listened to hundreds and hundreds of these stories. Stories of families being persecuted because of their religious and political beliefs, young men escaping torture because of their sexuality. It is their right to seek asylum but they need to prove they are a refugee to get the legal permission to stay in Australia. The people I see every day need to tell their life stories but the law is so complex and the legal process so dense that it is near impossible without dedicated legal support.

The thousands of our clients that we have helped to lodge protection visa applications are now having their cases decided by the Department. We are representing these people, giving them advice, attending protection visa interviews with them and drafting legal submissions. We need to be able to support people who are scheduled to have their cases heard.

As a not-for-profit charity, our main source of income is from donations. Donations allow us to expand our pro bono support to represent as many families and individuals seeking asylum as we can.”

# Our Services

“ The best part about this news [being granted a visa] is that we will not have to return to the country where we faced unbearable trauma and violence. ”



RACS provides free legal assistance to people seeking asylum and refugees. Our services are designed to be appropriate to the needs of our community, and effective so that they have a positive impact for people who seek our help.

- **Full-time Casework Service** from Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm - we assist people seeking asylum to present their case effectively with the Department of Home Affairs (DOHA) and Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) or the Immigration Assessment Authority (IAA).
- **Free Telephone Advice Service** on Tuesdays 10.00am to 11.30am provides information and advice to people located both in the community and in detention.

- **Face-to-Face Advice Clinic** by appointment at Randwick, Auburn and Westmead.
- A **Triage Lawyer** provides daily emergency assistance for people needing urgent and immediate legal advice – particularly to those in detention.
- The **Legal Help for Refugees Clinic** assists people seeking asylum who arrived by boat post 13 August 2012 to apply for protection. This work has involved over 900 volunteers. The clinic partnered with migrant resource offices, schools and universities, that provide the resources required to allow volunteers, interpreters and lawyers from pro bono firms, to help up to 60 people at a given time. Over 1,700 applications were lodged last year, representing around 4,500 people, and we hope to represent at least 1,100 people through the decision-making processes of the DOHA and IAA.

- The **Legal Help for Unaccompanied Children Project** assists child asylum seekers who arrived by boat and were unaccompanied by a parent or guardian. Many of them are now 18+ but still receive a dedicated service.
- **RACS/Asylum Seekers Centre Legal Clinic** is a holistic service run in partnership with RACS and assists Asylum Seekers Centre clients with advice and assistance in relation to their protection claims.
- The **Auburn Legal Outreach Service** assists residents of the Cumberland LGA with short drop-in sessions to address immediate and urgent issues.
- The **Westmead Outreach Service** in partnership with the Jesuit Refugee Service assists people with short drop-in.
- Our **Family Reunion Clinic** offers assistance to refugees holding permanent visas with advice and assistance about bringing their family members to Australia.
- Our **Justice for Refugees Judicial Review Referral Service** provides referrals for people who have received a double negative decision (from the Department and the IAA) to barristers for prospects assessment and then a referral to an instructing solicitor for judicial review support.

# Executive Director Tanya Jackson-Vaughan

RACS was proud to celebrate our 30th birthday this year. For 30 years, we have been leaders in the refugee sector providing access to justice to people who come to our shores in the hope of a safe and peaceful life.

At the celebration of our resilience of surviving the turmoil that is government refugee policy, we were joined by our patrons Professor Gillian Triggs and the Hon. Michael Kirby. How honoured we are to have two such defenders of human rights at our helm!

*As the Hon. Michael Kirby has said “This is not a good time for the rule of law in Australia... we have to engage the very best lawyers for those who come seeking sanctuary in our country... years from now we will look back on this time and we will be surprised at what we have done but we will honour those who have assisted, who can make sure the rule of law is a reality for those who come to us seeking asylum.”*

I would like to honour the alumni of RACS, the people that established our organisation in 1987, who had the foresight to recognise that a dedicated legal service providing legal support to people fleeing persecution was necessary.

A dedicated refugee legal service provides a safe space for people who have kept their worst fears to themselves to talk about their experiences for the first time. Our team of human rights lawyers are trained to recognise the impacts of trauma on a person's bearing, on their ability to articulate why they fled, and they are trained to respond with compassion and respect to the very human needs of our clients.

Being kind, showing compassion is what we do at RACS, whilst we go about our purpose of providing critical legal assistance to people applying for protection.

I would like to acclaim the RACS team for their achievements this past year. Sarah Dale, our Principal Solicitor, leads the legal team with passion, compassion and determination. Her courage to take on complex matters, like assisting clients lodge complaints against the Government for breaching their confidential data, has shown our clients that we are there for them throughout their journey to safety. RACS has their back.

Our leadership team, using a strengths-based approach, has guided the staff through some turbulent, stressful and ridiculously busy times. Alison, Ben, Scott, Simon and Jemma have trained and nurtured our lawyers and our pro bono support – the army we have needed to help the thousands who require our assistance. Kerrith is the steady and kind hand who manages to keep us on track financially and operationally and I am so grateful to her for this foundational work. Shauna, who has the challenging job of raising the funds we need to survive, has brought enthusiasm, expertise and innovation to the role and we have benefited enormously from her dedication to our work.

Reeve our Volunteer Coordinator has over 60 people to manage at any one time and his calm in the face of the storm is to be commended. As is the genius of the rest of our team; the lawyers and the legal admin staff have had to meet arbitrarily imposed deadlines over and over again, whilst at the same time treating each individual human being in their care with the utmost respect and dignity. They are truly amazing.



Since the October 2017 deadline, we have had the opportunity to start planning for the future. A future where we face both certainty and uncertainty. We know how many people who are seeking asylum are living in NSW, and who need assistance with applying for protection. We know that many will have to start renewing their 3-year visa, which took 3 years to get after a 3 year wait. We hope that there may be change; that there may be a re-think on how people seeking asylum and refugees are treated. We hope that refugees will be given permanent visas, will be able to bring their families here and finally become citizens of this safe and beautiful country.

We look to you – our community of supporters, our pro bono firms and fair minded human beings who believe in us, to support us in achieving our vision and purpose. You will find our strategic plan for the next 3 years in this report.

Finally, thank you to our Board. Chris Yoo, our President, provides sage advice and his commitment to our work is to be commended. The Board gives up hours of their time to ensure we have good governance and leadership supporting our critical work.

Thank you all.

**Tanya Jackson-Vaughan**

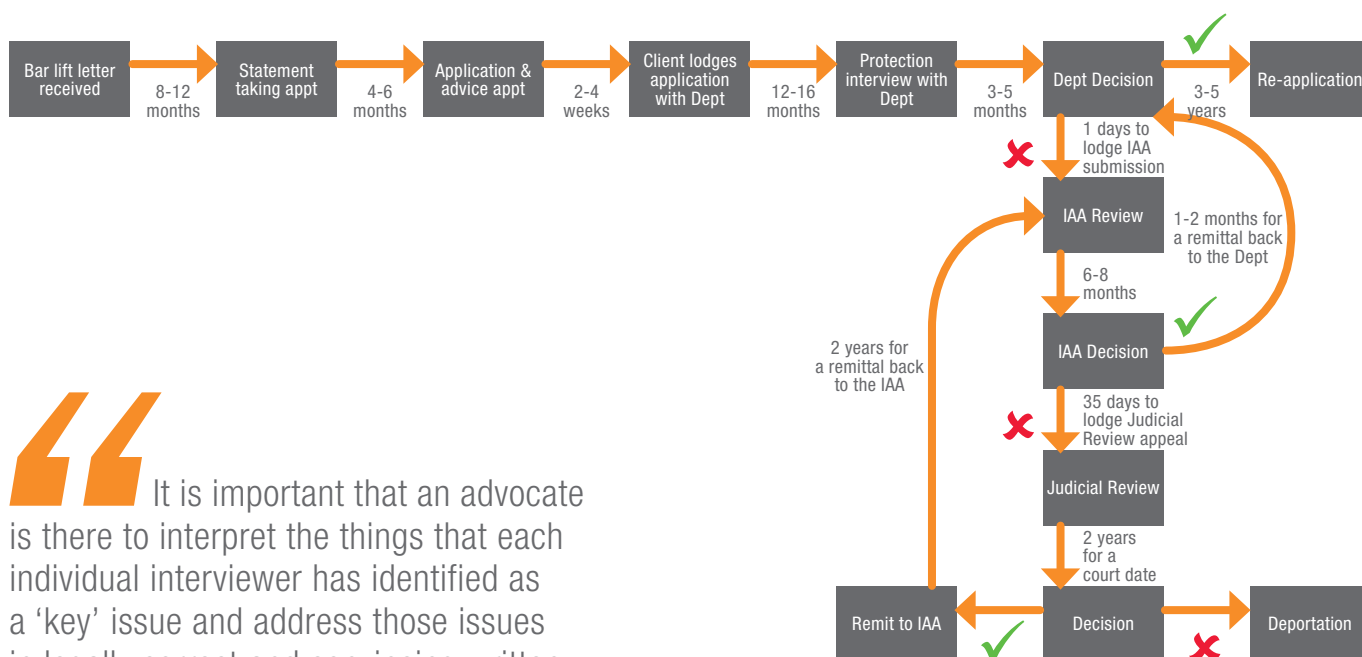
“ After what happened to me in my country, I lost hope in people. The way you helped me, made me believe there are kind people again. ”

# The Protection Visa Process

The process of seeking asylum is long and complex, particularly for those people having to go through the Fast Track system. This diagram shows how long it can take for a person to have their protection claims assessed. 30,500 people arrived between 2012 and 2014 but were not allowed to lodge a protection claim until 2015. Since April 2015, when the first 'bar lift' letter was sent out, RACS has been assisting people with their protection visa applications. As funded services were cut in 2014, RACS has had to rely on volunteer interpreters, form fillers and the support of pro bono lawyers to assist the over 4,500 people who need our help. This meant that there was a long wait for our services. However, everyone we helped has managed to meet the October 2017 application lodgement deadline.

Now those people are waiting for an interview with the Department, waiting for a decision, waiting for an IAA hearing or, for the unfortunate few, waiting for a court hearing date. The process can take up to 3 years.

For people living in NSW, RACS is the only dedicated legal centre able to support these people during this long wait.



“ It is important that an advocate is there to interpret the things that each individual interviewer has identified as a 'key' issue and address those issues in legally correct and convincing written submissions. ”

Holly from Baker & McKenzie



# Our strategic plan for 2019-21

## Our Vision:

Justice & dignity for refugees



## Our Values:

Respect  
Fairness  
Compassion  
Integrity



## Our Purpose:

To advocate for fair laws and treatment of refugees



## Our 2019-21 Objectives

### 1. ACCESSIBLE LEGAL SERVICES

The refugee determination process is very complex. It is in English and it is daunting. People seeking asylum need at least 40 hours of accessible and timely legal assistance throughout the process.

- RACS will ensure that people have access to this critical support by leveraging volunteers and pro bono legal assistance.
- Our *emergency phone line* will provide immediate reassurance and advice to anxious callers in the community and in detention.
- We will go out to the community providing *drop-in services* where people can access on the spot advice at the Auburn Centre for Community, at the Jesuit Refugee Service in Westmead and at the Asylum Seekers Centre in Newtown.
- Our *Unaccompanied Children program* will continue to provide legal support to young people who came seeking protection without any adult family members.
- Our *Citizenship for Stateless Children program* will provide the children of stateless refugees, through gaining Australian citizenship, with an identity and a sense of belonging to their community.
- Our *Judicial Review Referral program, Justice for Refugees*, will offer people a final chance at justice by providing referrals to our

pro bono barristers and solicitors to appeal their case in the courts.

- Our *Family Reunion program* will support refugees in Australia who are separated from their families by applying for visas for family members who are overseas to join them here.
- *Temporary Protection Visa Renewal* project. People who came by boat can only apply for a 3 or 5-year visa. For people who received a protection visa in 2015, their protection visa needs to be renewed. This process is as complex as people's first temporary visa application. Despite being found to be a refugee first time round, they will still need to go through the Department interview process and they could be rejected with this next application.
- *Legal Health Checks*. People are complex and have complex issues. We will provide a more holistic service, using legal health checks to ascertain what other legal services people may need.
- *Legal assistance for people subject to the character test at the Administrative Appeals Tribunal*. With an increase in the use of cancellation and refusal powers, supporting people at risk of having their visa cancelled through the appeals process is critical. We will partner with universities and pro bono firms to fill this gap.
- *People transferred from Manus and Nauru due to health complications*. Working with

our community partners, we will continue to support these most vulnerable people with migration advice.

### 2. REFUGEE and COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

- RACS will ensure service delivery is effective and the people we serve understand the legal advice provided to them.
- We will work with our community partners to provide relevant services and engage in joint advocacy campaigns informed by this work.
- Broader community engagement will grow our community of supporters.

### 3. THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

- RACS will continue to have a leadership role in public discourse, advocacy and policy development based on our experience working with people seeking asylum and refugees.
- RACS will collaborate with university partners to research the impact of our work and refugee policy on the people who seek our help.
- The Refugee Strategic Litigation Collaborations project will enhance the skills of staff to provide greater strategic impact in law reform.
- We will partner with major universities to teach future human rights defenders.
- Innovative practices in the legal and NFP sector will be explored and pursued to further our strategic vision.

## Our Objectives will be underpinned by two pillars - Sustainability and People

### 1. SUSTAINABILITY

- We will continue to diversify our funding streams to ensure long term financial security.
- We will implement a marketing, media and communications strategy to increase our brand awareness.
- We will secure long term accommodation.
- Operational efficiency will continue to be improved.
- RACS' work will be enhanced by a steady number of secondments from our pro bono partners.

### 2. PEOPLE

- RACS' workplace will be a secure, supportive, rewarding and stimulating environment. Wellbeing programs will help staff to manage the workload, external pressures and vicarious trauma.
- RACS' volunteer program will continue to be a rewarding opportunity for young legal interns, providing them with their first workplace experience and ensuring that they are trained and managed appropriately.

- Recruitment of skilled volunteers will fill critical resource gaps to allow RACS to respond effectively to the legal, policy and funding environment.
- Continuing professional development of RACS staff will build the skills required to achieve our strategic objectives and, in particular, our new projects.
- RACS' reconciliation plan will be finalised, launched and implemented.

# Proudly affiliated with UNSW



*The President and Vice-Chancellor,  
Professor Ian Jacobs*

Our UNSW 2025 Strategy includes a commitment to contribute to the wider community in meaningful and tangible ways. We are enormously proud of our three-year partnership with RACS. For student volunteers and interns, the chance to work at the frontline of a community legal practice represents an invaluable learning opportunity, and likewise the advocacy and research undertaken by the Kingsford Legal Centre, the Andrew & Renata Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, and other parts of UNSW, makes a direct impact on those most in need of legal protection and support. One of the inaugural topics of UNSW's Grand Challenges Program was Refugees and Migrants, so it has been particularly fitting that we are able to support the important work that RACS does providing critical legal assistance to people seeking protection in Australia. Partnering with human rights organisations such as RACS is one of the most direct ways in which we can give substance to our commitment to serving a just society.

**Professor Ian Jacobs**

## Our Partnership with UNSW

RACS is very grateful to UNSW's President Ian Jacobs for his ongoing support of our organisation. Professor George Williams, the Dean of Law, is also a champion of RACS who deserves special mention and helped secure us an additional 3 years' accommodation when we had to move out of our home at 1-3 Eurimbla Avenue, Randwick. We had seen hundreds of people walking through the doors for assistance, but

NSW Health is expanding the health precinct, so we had to find an alternate home. In August 2018, we moved just around the corner to 30 Botany Street, Randwick.

RACS works closely with the UNSW Law faculty. We have been part of the advisory committee on the University's new P-L-T program. The Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law has invited

RACS lawyers to guest lecture. UNSW's Social Justice Internship Program offers places at RACS and we have been fortunate enough to have the following students provide essential front of house support with submission writing for the lawyers. They are the first people clients speak to and we are grateful to have UNSW students providing this critical service.

## UNSW Social Justice Internship 2017/18

Katherine Summers    Jaspreet Nagra    Nakul Bhagwat    Albert Huynh    Julianna Tan

## From UNSW Law's inaugural hackathon to an award winning Portal

In 2016, UNSW students were involved in a Hackathon for RACS. 150 students spent two days designing a portal for our judicial review service. The winning idea was taken away and made into reality thanks to Gilbert & Tobin and Thomson Reuters. The UNSW students' idea, made into a practical, time-saving portal by Gilbert & Tobin won the law firm the 2018 Innovative Lawyers: Innovation in the Rule of Law and Access to Justice Award. #collaborationinaction.

*Peter Dombkins and Tim Strahan from Gilbert & Tobin came to RACS to share the award, with Richard Milne, Mohammad Housaini and Tanya Jackson-Vaughan from RACS.*



# Principal Solicitor Sarah Dale



2017/18 was the year of the deadline. We were faced with many crucial deadlines, all of which, I'm proud to say, RACS hit and reached with gusto, poise and compassion.

In 2012 when processing stopped, our team found ourselves sometimes at a loss as to what our purpose was, why our service was still so critical and wondered what would keep us busy. In the years since, our purpose has become clearer than ever. We have been busier than we ever could have imagined, and our service has remained an absolutely vital lifeline for people seeking asylum.

Whilst assisting people with bridging visas, detention issues and those who arrived by plane, we also started to provide a clinic service. We started this mainly to assist clients to feel empowered. We ensured that although government policy had put significant hurdles in place, deliberately preventing them from even applying, that our clients could tell their stories to someone who would listen, they could find a place where they would be treated with dignity and respect. That place would be RACS. With this, we established two services, one we now know as the RACS Legal Help for Refugees Clinic and another dedicated to those who arrived as unaccompanied children.

As people came to hear of the services, our waiting list skyrocketed and often remained in excess of 12 months, but for the most part people were happy to wait knowing they would be heard in a safe place. With the invaluable help of several law firms and community groups we slowly worked through our list.

Eventually, with the help of RACS' lawyers people were able to lodge applications. Again, a new list began to assist with lodgements, and again people patiently waited for the critical legal assistance they needed.

In May 2017, it was announced that despite making people wait years to lodge their applications, the Minister had now decided to impose a final deadline of 1 October 2017. That deadline, which primarily affected women and children, gave us only 5 months to complete hundreds of applications to ensure all the people who sought our help had their rights protected.

All this had to be done whilst we also assisted clients under the Primary Application & Information Service (PAIS) to make their applications.

From this announcement, we went from coordinating 25 appointments a week to 125, in 7 locations around NSW. For some in the clinic team it became a 7 day a week role. Our primary goal was to ensure nobody was going to be left behind.

It is with sincere gratitude that I thank our supporters, for backing us and taking action, showing leadership and supporting us, to help some of Australia's most vulnerable people.

It is because of you we have been able to assist more than 4000 people through our clinic.

It is because of you more than 2200 Statements have been taken.

It is because of you we have ensured more than 2000 applications were lodged with legal assistance.

It is because of you over 150 young people that arrived as unaccompanied children were represented in this process.

It is because of the incredible RACS team, nobody was left behind.

Without this service these people would have remained unrepresented, alone and unprotected.

Whilst we will celebrate the enormous achievement when applications are lodged, this work amounts to only approximately 1/3 of the process that our Fast Track clients will have to go through. They now face interviews before the Department, Identity Assessments and lengthy correspondence back and forth from the Department clarifying the information provided in these applications.

It is at this stage that the law, policy and country information all collide in a multifaceted decision-making process that is entirely foreign to most people seeking asylum, indeed almost anyone who does not have experience or training in this field. It is now that all of our years of preparation from 2012 onwards finally pay off as representation and assistance at this next stage will be most critical.

The RACS team left no stone unturned, no limit reached, no ask too great in supporting the many thousands of people we were able to assist this year. I couldn't be prouder to be part of this unwavering and dedicated team. I know that moving into the next year, as we enter into a process so complex, so nuanced, so uncompromising, our team couldn't be better prepared for the challenge ahead so we can continue to serve those who have every right to seek asylum in our country.





# RACS was established in 1987

## What has happened to refugee policy over the last 30 years?

Here is a snapshot of Australia's refugee policy over this time.

When will we treat refugees with dignity and give them the justice they deserve?

### 1987-1989

The Refugee Advice and Casework Service (RACS) was established.

- 1988 and 1989: The first Torture and Trauma Services in both Sydney and Melbourne were established.
- 1989: the Migration Legislation Amendment Act 1989 (Cth) set out the process and criteria for ministerial intervention.

### 1990-1999

- 1990-1993: A new and more comprehensive refugee processing scheme was put in place within the immigration portfolio with a focus on the protection of Australia and harsher processes for refugees.
- Mandatory detention of unauthorised entrants.
- The Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) was created.
- 1994: Permanent protection was offered to refugees.
- 1996: Both onshore and offshore elements of the Humanitarian Program were linked.
- 1999: The Border Protection Legislation Amendment Bill 1999 (Cth) sought to prevent and deter the arrival of people by boat.

### 2000-2010

- 2000: The Howard Government continued its introduction of policies that hindered the ability of those seeking asylum to get permanent protection, despite the prevalence of protests at detention centres throughout this time.
- 2001: (Excision from Migration Zone) Act was passed.
- The Pacific Solution was also passed. People seeking asylum by boat were to be taken to either Australian immigration facilities such as Christmas Island or another country such as Indonesia, Papua New Guinea (Manus Island) or Nauru.
- 2004: The High Court ruled that harsh detention conditions were not legal (Behrooz) but found that detention could potentially be indefinite (Al-kateb v Godwin).
- 2005: The Migration Act was amended so that detention of children could only be used as a last resort.

- 2007: The Rudd Government came into power and abandoned the Pacific Solution.
- 2008: Nauru and Manus Island were shut down. The Temporary Protection Visa regime was abolished.
- RACS moved from Kippax St, Surry Hills, to University of Sydney Old Law School Building, Phillip St, Sydney.

### 2010-Present

- 2010: Processing of asylum claims suspended for people from Sri Lanka (3 months) and Afghanistan (6 months). Children and family groups start moving from detention into community-based accommodation.
- 2011: People seeking asylum who enter Australia via an excised offshore place without a valid visa were dubbed 'offshore entry persons' (OEP), meaning that they were not eligible to apply for any visa as they could not apply under s46A of the Migration Act. However, people seeking asylum classified as OEPs were able to get their claims processed under a 'non-statutory refugee status assessment' procedure. This involved an assessment of whether a person seeking asylum was a refugee or not within the definition of the 1951 Refugee Convention. If the person was assessed as having refugee status, their case was referred to the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship for approval.
- 2012: In March, the single processing system was introduced, removing discrimination between people who came by boat and those who came by plane. The bar preventing people who came by boat from applying for protection was lifted and they were able to access the Refugee Review Tribunal. In August, regional processing legislation was implemented. The bar was dropped again for everyone who came by boat seeking asylum after that date and processing recommenced on Manus Island and Nauru.
- 2013: 19 July: Introduction of Pacific Solution Mark 2 – people seeking asylum were to be relocated to Nauru or Manus Island within 48 hours of arrival. The Code of Behaviour was introduced for people living in the community on Bridging Visa Es. If this code is breached, their BVE may be cancelled and they may be re-detained. Introduction of Direction 62 deemed that family stream visa applications for sponsors



Photo of Indo-Chinese refugees arriving in Canberra 1979. Source: National Library of Australia.

who entered Australia via boat were to be given the lowest priority.

- 2014: Removal of funded legal services for people who sought asylum by boat or those deemed unauthorised air arrivals. RACS lost 85% of its funding and has to become a fundraising organisation. 15 December: The Migration and Maritime Powers Legislation Amendment (Resolving the Asylum Legacy Caseload) Act – only temporary visas would be possible for boat arrivals regardless of the date on which they came.
- 2015 18 April: The Migration (Protection and Other Measures) Act was introduced, placing the burden of proof on the person seeking protection, and a heightened focus on identity documents when assessing visa applications. The Minister was given new powers allowing him to refuse people based upon issues with identification documents. For example, if they are not produced upon request, have been destroyed by the applicant or are deemed to be bogus. The Fast Track process started. RACS moved to UNSW's 1-3 Eurimbla Ave, Randwick.
- 2016: Children born after 1/1/2014 to parents who came by boat are deemed to be Fast Track applicants.
- 2017: 21 May: Minister for Immigration announced 'lodge or leave' deadline of 1 October 2017. Refugees in Manus Island were informed that the centre would be closing down by October. Those found to be refugees would be transferred to Papua New Guinea while those who were not would be encouraged to go home or forcibly removed there. Appointment of Professor Gillian Triggs and the Hon. Michael Kirby as RACS patrons.



# Championing Human Rights in 2017/18

RACS lawyers worked tirelessly in 2017/18 to ensure that people seeking asylum had access to justice and were treated with dignity.

Arbitrarily imposed deadlines and the unprecedented need for our services meant staff and volunteers worked days, nights and weekends.

We are proud that RACS did not turn a single person away who came to our doors.

**6015**  
People

assisted with their visa applications



**350**  
PEOPLE

who were transferred from Nauru and Manus were given advice



**94**

completed judicial review merits assessments done



**20**

young people in Nauru

supported with legal advice and with written submissions to the UN human rights complaints body



Number of sessions we helped someone with a legal matter

**18314**

“ I started my life again here. I am learning the language, the culture and making new friends. I want to put the past behind me so that I can build a new future here.



# This year RACS celebrated 30 years of service to the community

Thanks to the generous support of **Hall & Wilcox**, our Gold Sponsors, and **Wotton & Kearney's** Heidi Nash-Smith, who organised the event, RACS was able to celebrate 30 years of providing dedicated legal services to people seeking asylum and refugees.

Prospere Gateretse and Ezat, both former clients of RACS, shared their stories of seeking safety in Australia and their hopes for the future. Simon Lewis, the keynote speaker, described his time working as a lifesaver in the Mediterranean rescuing Syrian refugees from the danger of drowning at sea.

We were joined by our patrons, Emeritus Professor **Gillian Triggs** and the **Hon. Michael Kirby**, and alumni of RACS spanning our 30 years - including Jane McAdam, Ben Saul, Lachlan Murdoch, Melissa Phillips, Susan Meyer, Gabrielle Appleby, Louise Boon-Kuo, Nigel Dobbie, Arthur Glass, Eve Lester, Pip Martin, Melissa McAdam, Lucy Morgan, Lyn Payne, Melissa Phillips, Nicholas Poynder, James Simpson and Katie Wrigley.



Our art auction, with beautiful art donated by generous supporters, was a great success.

We were particularly grateful to **Ben Quilty** for donating one of his masterpieces, a life jacket representing the many people who attempt to cross the seas to safety.



# What difference does a legal representative make?



## A case story from one of our pro bono lawyers, Holly Smith from Baker McKenzie

“The case I want to talk about ... highlights why it is so important that our clients have an advocate at these interviews. Our clients are a father and mother who fled Sri Lanka approximately 5 years ago due to the war in Sri Lanka and, since arriving in Australia, have had 2 young children. Both parents had lost immediate family members in the conflict.

The mother and father were separated during the interview, with the father being interviewed first. In the father’s interview, the interviewer spent significant time teasing out a technicality and pressing the father to provide further specifics in detailing graphic and gory particulars of traumatic beatings he had endured during the conflict.

The interviewer was focused on issues that would not usually be of concern, questions you wouldn’t otherwise suspect were necessary in assessing a person’s refugee status, while things that the Department would normally focus on, this interviewer accepted without issue. I felt very fortunate to be there to be able to understand what the interviewer saw as the key issues so that they could be addressed in written submissions. Our client was very upset talking about such traumatic experiences and was not in a position to be able to interpret the interviewer’s concerns. Nor was he equipped to address those concerns in legal written submissions.

I think that this case highlights why it is so important for applicants to have an advocate in the room with them, to offer support, speak openly and frankly about their rights and the process and to consider the interviewer’s concerns so that they can be addressed in convincing and legally relevant submissions.”

## Who are the people we help at RACS?

The people that come to RACS for assistance come from many different countries. However, what they have in common is the hope for a safer future. A protection visa is the final step in their journey to safety. Often, the first time they have ever told anyone their tales of persecution is when they meet their lawyer. RACS provides a safe and compassionate space for people to talk about their worst fears and to articulate their hopes. This is a crucial part of the application for protection - capturing the reasons why people fear harm and why they seek refuge in our country.

RACS is honoured to work with such strong, resilient, compassionate and kind people. The bravery of people who have fled fear, risked their lives as they journeyed to Australia, and selflessly want only the best for their families is humbling.



*Sylvia Arzey, RACS lawyer with Ezat, her client she assisted over a 3 year period*



# Meet Zaki Haidari - our inaugural Ambassador



Photograph from Lord Mayor's Welcome to International Students 2016 (Photographer unknown)

**“My name is Zaki and I am a refugee living in Australia. In 2011 when I was 17, I had to leave my mother and younger siblings behind in Afghanistan – I had no choice”.**

“ There’s no way you’ll get a protection visa without legal support.

Zaki Haidari

Leaving was the only way to escape from the Taliban who kidnapped my father and accused him of working with the international forces. As the eldest son, my life was seen as the price my family had to pay for the charges of my father.

After four terrifying months making my way alone through several countries, I made the decision to board a fishing boat in Jakarta with 90 other desperate people. We were all searching for freedom and safety in Australia but this over-crowded fishing boat didn't survive the journey. Thankfully we were rescued and the authorities took us to a detention centre on Christmas Island.

What happened next, I now realise, was to dodge one of the biggest bullets of my life.

Nauru and Manus Island were at full capacity so I was sent to a detention centre in Tasmania and then allowed to live in the community in Sydney.

The next life-changing moment came when I met Tanya (Jackson-Vaughan, Executive Director of RACS) and was supported with free legal services to help me apply for asylum.

People at RACS were amazing. Walking into their office feels like there are a bunch of beautiful people that work towards protecting us all.

You feel they are by your side to protect you. Isobel, my lawyer was so amazing. My English was very limited back then. She helped me with all my written statements and got all my documents ready before we went to Immigration for my interview.

I will never forget the moment I heard I was granted a temporary visa. Both Isobel and I burst into tears. It was a big thing in my life to know I could stay in Australia for the next five years.

Without legal support, it is very hard, even for someone who speaks English, to put everything together. You can't write a statement with broken English. To fill all those forms in correctly is impossible. It's not easy to understand the questions.

My current visa will expire in 2021. After that, I don't know what will happen. I will have to apply again for another visa to avoid being deported.

I can't really plan my life. So far, I know I am safe here. But it kills me, the pain of knowing that my safety is just temporary. I wish it could be permanent. But it's like everything is kind of blurry - I don't know my future.

**Zaki Haidari**



# From a RACS lawyer's perspective - Isobel McGarity, Senior Solicitor at RACS

## Zaki, like many of our clients at RACS, is the embodiment of resilience

Zaki was such a fantastic person to work with. He, like many of our clients at RACS, is the embodiment of resilience. Despite the immense difficulties he has faced in Afghanistan and also in Australia, in such a hostile policy environment, he approaches everything with warmth, empathy and a smile.

I remember Zaki's interview as if it were yesterday, and I felt such relief when he was granted his visa. The heartbreaking thing is that for every case that is accepted like Zaki's, there is another case where a person is also deserving and that person may not be granted a visa.

Throughout his time in Australia, Zaki has been such a role model, and has been so supportive of other people seeking safety; by referring them to RACS when they need legal help, assisting others with English, and being a human rights advocate more broadly.

Zaki is an inspiring young person and is such an asset to Australia. The fact that he does not have a clear pathway to permanent residency here is tragic, and I know that any policy maker that spent five minutes with him would see that as well. I'm excited to see where his future takes him and I just hope that future contains the certainty and safety that he deserves.



# Partnerships

Without our partnerships we would not have been able to help all our clients meet the protection visa lodgement deadline. RACS joined forces in New South Wales with community organisations to provide wrap-around legal services for people in the places they live or in the centres where they receive holistic support.

RACS has partnered with the **Asylum Seekers Centre** to provide an in-house legal service that ensures their most vulnerable clients are attended to. The **Jesuit Refugee Service** houses RACS' Outreach service, allowing people to walk in off the street without an appointment and get immediate assistance and advice about their legal matters. This service replicates another Outreach which is provided through the RACS' partnership in Auburn with **Cumberland Council**.



We are continuously in awe of the work done by RACS lawyers and volunteers and their commitment to the rights of people seeking asylum. With every policy change, RACS has stepped up to provide the highest level of support for people seeking asylum, whether that be expert legal advice, representation at interviews or tribunal hearings, countless hours of research, and of course, speaking out against deteriorating access to rights for people seeking asylum.

The work that RACS has done to respond to the 1 October 2017 deadline for the lodgement of protection applications for people who arrived by boat has been monumental. They have used every resource available to make sure that everyone on their waiting list has had the support needed to meet the deadline. This effort has not been lost on the people we serve, as they comment how grateful they are to have a lawyer help them to tell their story, to apply for protection, and to understand the process. The services that RACS provides have made a difference to the lives of thousands of people seeking asylum.

**Carolina Gottardo**, CEO, Jesuit Refugee Service



We have joined forces with ASC, JRS, and the House of Welcome to form the Humanitarian Hub. Funded by the **Sidney Myer Fund**, the **Caledonia Foundation** and the **Vincent Fairfax Family Fund**, this hub provides a central location for people willing to volunteer to help refugees and people seeking asylum in NSW. A jobs board and training to make people volunteer-ready are the main focus of the project. In addition, the four organisations have been working together on policy reform and advocacy under an alliance called the New South Wales Alliance for People Seeking Asylum, NAPSA. This unique collaboration has allowed us to respond to various crises that have arisen due to ad hoc and rapid government policy changes, rallying together to ensure that gaps are met and there is a unified plan of action.

# Impact

RACS' services ensure that people get the help they need when they need it and within the community in which they live. Providing lawyers to community organisations also assists the caseworkers who provide welfare and psycho-social support to people seeking asylum. Caseworkers and other support staff can ask questions of the lawyers, be reassured about their clients' legal welfare and have access to community legal education as required.

“ The past few years have been extremely difficult on individuals and families enduring draconian policies and laws, and the sector trying to support them. RACS has demonstrated leadership, strength and resilience, much like the people that they support. They have provided clear, concise factsheets on the myriad legal changes, have provided regular updates to the sector, have shared their knowledge and expertise, and have lobbied on behalf of the people they serve. Their inclusive and collaborative approach has benefited not only the people that they serve but also other organisations and groups supporting people seeking asylum and people from a refugee background.

Paul Power, CEO, Refugee Council of Australia

## Collaboration with Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS)

SRSS, which were contracted by the Government to provide casework support to our clients, also rallied to support our organisation over the past 12 months as we rose to the challenge of helping thousands of people to lodge their protection visa applications prior to the deadline. We couldn't have done it without them.

- **Settlement Services International (SSI):** Provided office space, bilingual staff as interpreters and funding for our application service
- **Life without Barriers:** Provided office space and bilingual staff as interpreters
- **Australian Red Cross:** Provided interpreting funding and office space
- **Marist 180:** Provided office space, bilingual staff as interpreters and funding for our application service
- **St Vincent De Paul:** Partnered with us to provide support to some of our judicial review clients

## Partnerships with Universities

- **UNSW:** Accommodation and Social Justice interns
- **Macquarie University:** RACS provides academic supervision of Social Justice students
- **UTS:** Accommodation for our Legal Help for Refugees Evening clinic
- **WSU:** Weekend intensive workshop supervisors for the Graduate Migration Program
- Social Justice Internships for **UNSW, Macquarie Uni, UTS, WSU** and **USyd** law students



“ It was dangerous for me to travel here by boat alone as a young woman. I had no choice. If I had stayed I would have been killed. ”

RACS has made a significant contribution to legal policy and practice, as well as raising awareness in the community about the unjust policies and treatment of people seeking asylum.

## Submissions

During the 2017/18 financial year, RACS made the following submissions:

**Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee – Australian Citizenship Legislation Amendment (Strengthening the Requirements for Australian Citizenship and Other Measures) Bill 2017** – RACS opposed amendments that would have frustrated or removed existing pathways to Australian citizenship for refugees who live in Australia.

**Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee – Australian Border Force Amendment (Protected Information) Bill 2017** – RACS supported this Bill which alleviated some of the secrecy provisions criminalising the disclosure of whistle-blower information in relation to the immigration detention system.

**Department of Immigration and Border Protection – Policy Consultation Paper: Visa Simplification: Transforming Australia’s Visa System** – RACS argued for four principles to be upheld: Direct access to permanent residency, full integration into the Australian community including through citizenship, targeted assistance designed for the needs of people in the refugee and humanitarian visa program, and upholding the values of the rule of law, separation of powers and open government.

“ I was a professor in my country progressing steadily in my career. I had to flee to save my life and am working hard with the hope that I can return to studies and my career one day. ”

**Law Council of Australia – The Justice Project** – RACS raised a number of issues around the need for justice for people seeking asylum within Australia, including in the Fast Track process, offshore processing and boat turn backs, visa cancellations, immigration detention, bridging visas, family violence and unaccompanied children, and access to information.

**Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee – Migration Amendment (Prohibiting Items in Immigration Detention Facilities) Bill 2017** – RACS expressed its particular concern about the blanket prohibition of mobile phones in immigration detention and the punitive character of immigration detention in Australia.

**Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters – Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Funding and Disclosure Reform) Bill 2017** – RACS argued for this Bill to be withdrawn and re-drafted as it unfairly restricted charity funding sources, was an unreasonable compliance burden, and would have prohibited legitimate advocacy.

**Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee – Migration Amendment (Clarification of Jurisdiction) Bill 2018** – RACS recommended the Bill dealing with complex issues of court jurisdiction not be passed.

**Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs – Inquiry into the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Encouraging Self-sufficiency for Newly Arrived Migrants) Bill 2018** – RACS recommended the Bill not be passed, as it would cut social security for recent migrants to Australia by extending the waiting periods for payments. RACS stated that, “in our experience, appropriate and timely support during the first years following migration to Australia is critical to settlement outcomes. RACS is concerned that the Bill forms part of a clear trend toward limiting the rights of non-citizens who live in Australia in a manner that is both discriminatory and contrary to the objective of a healthy and harmonious society.”

**Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee – Australian Citizenship Legislation Amendment (Strengthening the Commitments for Australian Citizenship and Other Measures) Bill 2018** – RACS opposed the far-reaching negative impact of extending the residence requirement to eight years for a non-citizen to have been a permanent resident before they become eligible for citizenship by conferral.

**Joint Standing Committee on Migration – Review processes associated with visa cancellations on criminal grounds** – RACS is a member of the Visa Cancellations Working Group that made a submission recommending that a cautious approach to the removal of protections in the area of visa cancellations be adopted given the severity of the consequences for individuals, for their families, and for their communities. The Working Group also recommended that access to merits review be preserved at its current level in full and restrictions currently in place be eased, that the AAT should continue to adjudicate on the merits without interference, and that the rule of law should be protected.



# Advocacy campaigns

## March 2017 Raising community awareness about the 1 October 'lodge or leave' deadline

In order to raise community awareness about the Government's imposition of a protection visa lodgement deadline, RACS held a community meeting at Marrickville Town Hall.

We were joined by Guardian journalist Ben Doherty, Yarrre Bangura, Arash Boradbur, and MC Charles Firth. Sarah Dale spoke about why legal assistance is so critical to people who have escaped persecution and asked the community to come together and support our work.



## July 2017 Sydney Film Festival

Panel with Behrouz Boochani, his interpreter/translator Omid Tofighian and co-director Arash Savastani discussing their film, "Chauka, Please Tell Us The Time"

## October 2017 #IAMWATCHING - support for the men on Manus

The Manus detention centre was shut down, leaving hundreds of men stranded without protection, health care or adequate accommodation. RACS joined the campaign to highlight the plight of refugees and people seeking protection who are stranded on Manus Island and remain in danger despite asking for safety.



## In the media



### Advocating for the right to seek asylum:

#### May 2018 “The Case of the Disappearing Athletes” The New York Times

Ben Lumsdaine, a senior solicitor at RACS, talked to The New York Times about the Commonwealth Games athletes who had sought asylum:

“In some ways what’s going on is just what happens every day. Like many who come on student or visitor visas, foreigners associated with the Games arrived in Australia legally but feared returning home and eventually applied for protection visas. Under international law, it is legal to seek asylum as long as you report yourself to the authorities.”

[www.nytimes.com/2018/05/29/world/australia/commonwealth-games-athletes-australia-asylum-.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/29/world/australia/commonwealth-games-athletes-australia-asylum-.html)

### Speaking out against deportations without a fair hearing:

#### March 2018 “Tamil asylum seeker family ‘whisked away’ for deportation draws massive community support” ABC

Simon Bruck, a senior solicitor with RACS, said the family was reportedly without legal representation through their application and appeals process.

“The Government cut almost all the funding for refugee legal centres in 2014 and that meant that people had to represent themselves in this tough system to apply for protection and if there was an appeal to the Immigration Assessment Authority,” he said.

“The authority unfairly expects them to make written legal submissions under five pages, in English, even when a person is not fluent.”

[www.abc.net.au/news/2018-03-14/biloela-holds-vigil-for-sri-lankan-family-facing-deportation/9544860](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-03-14/biloela-holds-vigil-for-sri-lankan-family-facing-deportation/9544860)

### Government directed delays criticised by RACS:

#### February 2018 “Morrison’s visa delays show ‘utter disregard for the law’” Lawyers Weekly

“RACS is appalled by the news that former Minister for Immigration Scott Morrison directed ASIO to delay the security clearances of 700 refugees to block the grant of their permanent protection visas in late 2013,” the organisation said in a statement.

“The delays have created uncertain futures for many of our clients and have left many families torn apart. Morrison showed an utter disregard for the law through his actions.

“At the time of this direction, the minister’s legal obligation was to make a decision on refugee applications within 90 days. Instead, most decisions have taken three to five years, and some people are still waiting for an outcome.”

[www.lawyersweekly.com.au/biglaw/22634-morrison-s-refugee-visa-delays-show-utter-disregard-for-the-law-racs](http://www.lawyersweekly.com.au/biglaw/22634-morrison-s-refugee-visa-delays-show-utter-disregard-for-the-law-racs)

### Speaking out on the “Lodge or Leave” deadline’s first victim:

#### December 2017 “Tamil asylum seeker to be deported after failing to meet deadline” Detainee struggled to fill out 41-page application form in English – and was not able to access legal assistance in time The Guardian

Sarah Dale, Principal Solicitor said “Based on our experience of thousands of cases, this young man has a credible case for protection: an application has been submitted to the department and the department is ignoring that. Their response, in a nutshell, is he failed to meet their deadline.

[www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2017/dec/20/tamil-asylum-seeker-to-be-deported-after-failing-to-meet-deadline](http://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2017/dec/20/tamil-asylum-seeker-to-be-deported-after-failing-to-meet-deadline)

### Forced family separation for RACS’ clients on Nauru:

#### December 2017 ‘How can I?’: Nauru refugee says he was told to give up daughter for resettlement SBS News

Simon Bruck, RACS Senior Solicitor said, “How can our client ask his wife to take their 9-month-old baby to Nauru? A place that can’t offer adequate medical services and has proven so unsafe for so many refugees. How can Arash ask them to go there with no guarantee for their future?”

“The one simple humanitarian decision that should be made is to keep their family together. Arash should be able to meet and hold his baby daughter in person in Australia.”

[www.sbs.com.au/news/how-can-i-nauru-refugee-says-he-was-told-to-give-up-daughter-for-resettlement](http://www.sbs.com.au/news/how-can-i-nauru-refugee-says-he-was-told-to-give-up-daughter-for-resettlement)

# Pro bono and community legal partners

We have support from **Allens, Baker Mckenzie, Gilbert & Tobin, Hall & Wilcox, Herbert Smith Freehills, Hicksons, King & Wood Malleasons, Landers & Rogers, Norton Rose Fulbright** and **Wotton & Kearney**.

Under the supervision of a RACS lawyer, our pro bono lawyers provide up to 28 hours of legal work to RACS each week. This work could involve attending decision-making interviews and writing follow up submissions. We also have Immigration Assessment Authority clinics where six pro bono lawyers provide 15 hours a week of assistance writing submissions for people who would otherwise be unrepresented.

We have one lawyer who regularly volunteers 3 days a week, every week. Two others provide seven hours of legal assistance every week. If we were to put a figure on it, it would be worth close to \$1m each year. However the support and dedication they give to RACS unreservedly is priceless.

**Baker  
McKenzie.**

“ Our work with asylum seekers and refugees is something that I am particularly proud of...and the work we do with RACS is a significant part of that practice...Baker McKenzie has been working with RACS for over three and half years. During that time, we have developed a strong partnership with RACS and good relationships with its lawyers and staff. RACS is a fabulous organisation. With very little government funding, it runs on the smell of an oily rag – AND it runs efficiently and professionally.

**Kate Gillingham,**  
Pro Bono Counsel, Baker McKenzie

**KING & WOOD  
MALLESONS**  
金杜律师事务所

“ King & Wood Malleasons is deeply proud of, and passionate about, our strategic community partnership with RACS. This highly professional and high calibre community legal centre provides critical legal support to some of the most vulnerable and traumatised people in our community, a service that no other organisation in NSW does. With more than 2,000 people requiring its assistance, the task RACS faces is not only massive, it is truly daunting. They need every bit of support they can muster and KWM will work with and alongside RACS to do what we can to help. I strongly encourage everyone to do similarly and get behind RACS in any way they can.

**Dan Creasey,** Head of Pro Bono & Community Impact  
King & Wood Malleasons



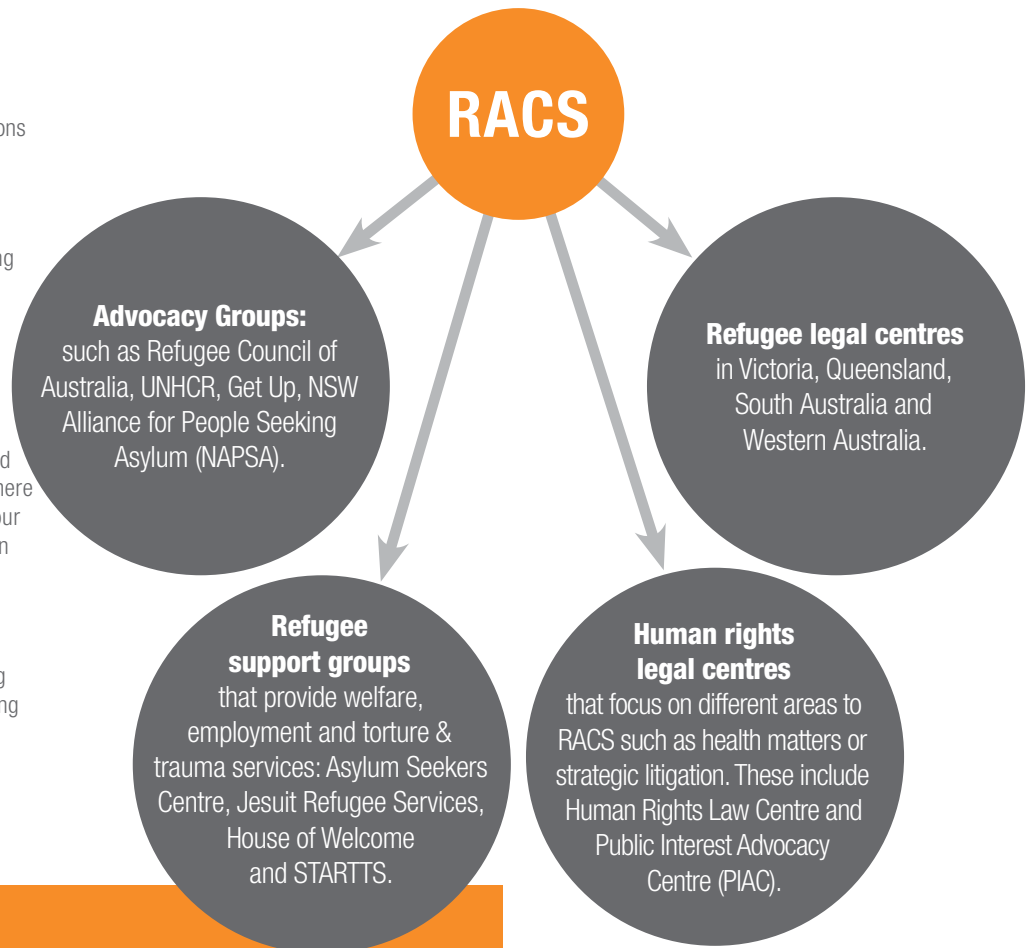


# Community legal collaboration

RACS works with other community organisations and community legal centres to achieve our purpose of providing justice and dignity for refugees.

In NSW, we are the only legal centre providing assistance to people seeking asylum and refugees for their protection visas. However, we work closely with other legal centres that provide similar services in other states and those legal centres that focus on health matters or strategic litigation, for example we give media advice to people on Nauru and Manus or those who have been transferred here for health issues. We are collaborators and our partnerships with community organisations in NSW means that the people we help receive holistic, accessible legal services.

Collaboration with the legal community is a key to defending the rights of people seeking asylum in Australia and the people languishing on Manus and Nauru.



“ The Human Rights Law Centre has worked closely with RACS for many years. As one of Australia’s leading legal practices providing free legal assistance to people seeking asylum, RACS are incredibly skilled and have a long-standing, well-deserved reputation for legal excellence. . . . As well as their talent, professionalism and determination, what impresses me the most about the RACS team is their leadership and collaboration in such crucial moments. These are incredibly challenging times to be defending the rights of refugees and people seeking asylum in Australia. Our sector is undoubtedly at its most effective when different organisations coordinate, share expertise and support each other’s work. No-one epitomises this collaborative spirit more than the lawyers at RACS. ”

**Daniel Webb**, Director of Legal Advocacy HRLC

*A map of RACS pro bono and community partners - working together for justice for refugees*

# Legal Network Partners

- RACS was grateful to be supported by the NSW Young Lawyers' Refugee Assistance Program, which assisted RACS' clients to fill in protection visa forms as part of our Legal Help for Refugees Clinic.
- The NSW Bar Association partnered with RACS to support our Judicial Review service. Heather Sare, from the Bar Association, is on the steering committee of Justice for Refugees. Heather and her team hosted an event to launch our Patrons, the Hon Michael Kirby and Emeritus Professor Gillian Triggs, and raise awareness of our Judicial Review service. Thank you to Arthur Moses, the Association's President, for his ongoing support.
- RACS plays a key role in the network of Refugee Community Legal Centres, with Refugee Legal, Refugee Advice and Immigration Legal Service, and the Humanitarian Group, where we discuss advocacy and law reform.
- We have a subcontracting partnership with RAILS and The Humanitarian Group for Primary Application Information Service, a contract to provide application assistance to the most vulnerable people seeking asylum.
- RACS is grateful to Legal Aid for their membership of our Justice for Refugees steering committee.



Arthur Moses SC at the NSW Bar Association event in October, 2017 in Sydney.

## Support for our Judicial Review Service

The support from barristers who give their time freely to RACS is extraordinary. We have 110 barristers who have supported our Justice for Refugees program with critical advice on judicial review matters, as well as 18 law firms providing instructing solicitors. However, we are always looking to grow our network of instructing solicitors.



Nadine Darling,  
Justice for Refugees Lawyer

Nadine Darling, our Justice for Refugees Lawyer explains the benefits pro bono lawyers can get from working with RACS:

- Firstly, you will be giving a person seeking asylum the dignity of representation in a process they cannot manage on their own and they simply cannot afford. Many of our clients are not able to work and once they receive a negative decision from the Immigration Assessment Authority all financial assistance from the government usually ends. When your welfare situation is that tenuous there is no way you can even contemplate paying for legal representation on a judicial review matter.
- Secondly, you will get to meet a person who arrived in Australia by boat – it won't just be something that you know in the abstract - that out there somewhere are people who arrived by boat seeking our protection. It was completely abstract for me until I started at RACS as a volunteer in 2015 and it had quite an effect on me – walking in to my first Outreach session in Parramatta and seeing about 40 young men and one family who all arrived here that way. This experience will stay with me.
- You will also get to develop or sharpen your admin law skills. We have access to some high quality training materials and we provide regular training for our pro bono lawyers.

# Recognition of our work

- Principal Solicitor, Sarah Dale was recognised as **Migration Partner of the Year, Lawyers Weekly Partner of the Year Awards**. In the words of Heidi Nash-Smith, who accepted the award of Sarah's behalf, *"Sarah is an inspirational lawyer. She is an amazing advocate, and she puts herself on the line every day, helping some of the most vulnerable members of our society and publicly advocating for their rights"*.



- RACS were a Law Award finalist at the **Australian Human Rights Awards 2017** for our work with unrepresented people seeking protection.

- RACS Senior Solicitor Alison Ryan was a finalist for **"Community Lawyer of the Year"** at the Women's Lawyers Association of NSW. Pictured here with Anne-Marie Allgrove (right) from Baker McKenzie at the Australian Women Lawyers 2018 Conference.





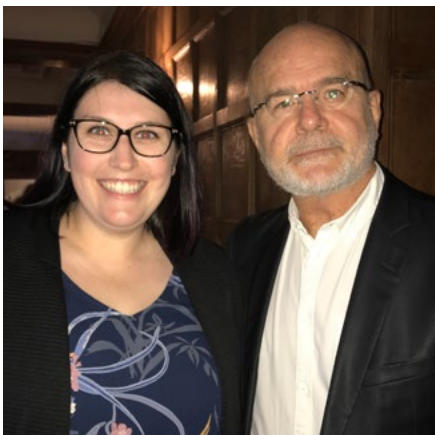
# Thought Leaders

RACS has been invited to speak at several conferences and consultations over the past 12 months to share our knowledge and insights.

In October 2017 Tanya Jackson-Vaughan presented a paper, at the **Federation of Ethnic Community Councils of Australia Conference, in Darwin**. Tanya spoke on the topic of 'The almost impossible dream of seeking a safer future – what are the challenges and possibilities for people seeking asylum in Australia who came by sea'.

The paper outlined the challenges people seeking asylum have faced as they apply for protection and looked at how the future of a revolving door of temporary visa renewals will impact them and the social cohesion of Australia. Politics and people's lives shouldn't mix – in our multicultural Australia there should be other approaches to people fleeing persecution.

In November 2017, Sarah Dale attended **Consultations with the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, Michael Forst**, working for the protection of people on the move in York, England. The purpose of the consultation was to give the Special Rapporteur the opportunity to meet with defenders working for the rights of people on the move to assess effectiveness of the protection mechanisms, collect testimonies and learn about new challenges, threats and opportunities for defenders and other relevant actors.



*Sarah Dale with Michel Forst, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders*

In December 2017, Sarah Dale participated in the **UNHCR expert roundtable on family reunification** in Brussels, Belgium.

The aim of the expert roundtable was to bring together academic experts, legal practitioners, judges, policy makers, Government officials, and UNHCR staff members, to discuss challenges and possibilities for upholding the right of refugees and beneficiaries of international protection to family unity in the context of family reunification.

In February 2018, Tanya Jackson-Vaughan spoke at the **Refugee Council of Australia's 'Refugee Alternatives' conference**, Melbourne. Tanya spoke on 'Partnerships in Practice' outlining the collaboration between RACS, Asylum Seekers Centre, House of Welcome and Jesuit Refugee Service which came together to form an alliance of non-government funded organisations that support people seeking asylum. We wanted to improve outcomes for the people we help by working more closely together, meeting regularly to discuss joint approaches and common challenges. Collaboration in practice. The result of this alliance was The Humanitarian Hub.



*Tanya Jackson-Vaughan at the Refugee Council of Australia's 'Refugee Alternatives' conference.*

In February 2018, Sarah Dale participated in a panel at the **Law Council of Australia Immigration Law Conference** in Adelaide. The panel addressed "**preparing Department of Home Affairs, Immigration Assessment Authority and Administrative Appeals Tribunal submissions**".

The panel discussed 'new information' at the Immigration Assessment Authority, Immigration Assessment Authority submissions generally and an analysis of latest Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade country information, other practical tips and advice on preparing legal submissions for protection matters.

In April 2018, Tanya Jackson-Vaughan and Sarah Dale attended **UNHCR's Annual Consultations** in Canberra. Sarah Dale gave a keynote speech on 'Status Resolution Support Services Cuts', and Tanya Jackson-Vaughan led an emergency meeting to discuss sector responses.

# RACS People

## BOARD

**President:** Chris Yoo, Partner, Genesis Advisory Australia

**Vice-President:** Leanne Ho, Executive Officer, National Social Security Rights Network, Pro Bono Consultant, Wotton + Kearney

**Treasurer:** David Wiggins, CFO/Company Secretary National Home Doctor Service

**Secretary:** James Nguyen, Senior Corporate Counsel, TEG Pty Ltd

**Public Officer:** Lachlan Murdoch, Deputy Director of NSW Service for the Treatment & Rehabilitation of Torture & Trauma Survivors (STARTTS)

**Susan Cowden:** Relationships Manager, Major Gifts, Youth of the Streets

**Frances Voon:** Executive Manager, The Andrew & Renata Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law

**Ruth Johnstone:** Membership Director NSW at Private Wealth Network (PWN) Senior Advisor at Wendy Brooks & Partners

## SENIOR MANAGEMENT

**Executive Director:** Tanya Jackson-Vaughan

**Principal Solicitor:** Sarah Dale

**Finance & Operations Manager:** Kerrith Sowden

**Fundraising Manager:** Shauna Wolfson

## SUPERVISING SENIOR SOLICITORS:

**Alison Ryan:** Legal Help for Refugees Clinic – legal assistance for the unrepresented Fast Track cohort

**Ben Lumsdaine:** Supervisor, IAAAS & Macquarie University Social Justice program

**Jemma Hollonds:** Outreach Supervisor

**Scott Cosgriff:** Policy, Supervisor

**Simon Bruck:** PAIS Supervisor

## OUR PATRONS

The Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG, former Justice of the High Court.

Emeritus Professor Gillian Triggs, former President of the Australian Human Rights Commission

## The human rights heroes who dedicate themselves to helping people through the protection visa process - the RACS team:

Rawan Arraf  
Sylvia Arzey  
Sharara Attai  
Rachel Bartholomeusz  
Stephanie Blaker  
Shoshana Booth  
Charlotte Matilda Chomppf  
Melisa Cicak  
Georgia-Rae Cobon  
Elise Collie  
Nadine Darling

Patrick Deegan  
Hannah Gray  
Amanda Hall  
Mariam Hammoudy  
Mohammed Housaini  
Benjamin Hughes  
Tara Imrie  
Jon Kindreich  
Reeve Koelmeyer  
Isobel McGarity  
Richard Milne

Nicholas Ngai  
Eimear O'Sullivan  
Uma Ramaprasad  
Avi Selvarajah  
Mitchell Skipsey  
Josh Strutt  
Jane Turner  
Alexandra Vaughan  
Thulasi Wigneswaran  
Hannah Wilkins  
Anita Rachel Will

## Secondees

We are very grateful to King & Wood Mallesons, Allens and Herbert Smith Freehills for providing us with secondees. Having an additional lawyer for 6 months provides a significant boost to our team. Once the secondment is finished, the secondee returns to their firm and becomes a champion for RACS.

Ava Hancock  
Stephanie Zughbi  
Alice Gardoll  
Tiffany Ha  
Lyndon Goddard  
Emily Fischer

**King & Wood Mallesons**  
**Allens**  
**Herbert Smith Freehills**  
**King & Wood Mallesons**  
**King & Wood Mallesons**  
**Allens**

February to August 2018  
February to August 2018  
February to April 2018  
August 2017 to February 2018  
February to July 2017  
March to August 2017

# Our People 2017/2018

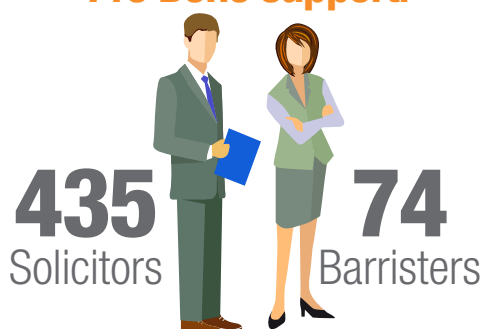


## Volunteer students:



Photo by UNHCR/A. McConnell

## Pro Bono support:





# Volunteers



## Social Justice Interns

Frontline services rely on our interns. When a person needing advice about seeking protection calls RACS, the first person they speak to is one of the dedicated young legal students who volunteer for us. Interns also provide country information research for our lawyers and assist with submissions. Some stay on and do their practical legal training with us, we even have some staff who started at RACS volunteering one day a week.

Thank you.



Volunteering with RACS has been the highlight of my law degree so far at Macquarie. Having the opportunity to draft legal memorandums and conduct country research surrounding real cases has truly given me a valuable experience and prepared me for the workforce. Both conducting research within the Social Justice Clinic and having the opportunity to visit the RACS outreach centre in Auburn opened my eyes to refugee issues and the burden placed on community legal centres such as RACS to help refugees and asylum seekers seek the help and protection that they are entitled to as human beings seeking protection in Australia.

Social Justice student,  
Macquarie University



## Interns in 2017/18

Joe Abi-Hanna  
Laura Aimbakis  
Aleena Akram  
Corrine Allain  
Steven An  
Kavindhra Anandavism  
Rosemarie Annuat  
Halima Ansari  
Youstina Armanyous  
Andrew Banks  
Julia Barboza  
Chelsea Barton  
Nakul Bhagwat  
Rhea Bhargava  
Yumi Bhattarai  
Coral Botka  
Sam Bowditch  
Stephanie Breen  
Dominik Breznik  
Alexandra Brien  
Amelia Brown  
Fathima Safiya Cader  
Camilla Carmichael  
Isabelle Casimir  
Charis Chan

Joanna Chapko  
Eryn Chapman  
Eugene (Yee Shun) Chow  
Nicola Clarke  
Anthea Compton  
Edward Concepcion  
Nicholas Conomos  
Hugh Dalton  
Jordan Daly  
Monica Deng  
Kim Anh Dinh  
Angela Downes-Morsley  
Bohdi Dun  
Majella Dunn  
Tim Edmeades  
Fatimah El-Kordi  
Lara Emery  
David Fang  
Nicola Faulks  
Josephine Fenn  
Louise Ferguson  
Carolyn Fernandez  
Louis Gasparinatos  
Maya Gonzalez  
Ira Goyal

Meghan Grawich  
James Gray  
Thamilini Gunaranchithan  
Janine Habeebeh  
Courtney Haggett  
Diana Halder  
Aisling Hamilton  
Luanna Han  
Naomi Hanna  
Brent Harlow  
Zuhai Hashimi  
Callum Hinwood  
Belinda Hopkins  
Olivia Hua  
Albert Huynh  
Phoebe Iguchi  
Beycan Irmako  
Philopateer Iskander  
Pranay Jha  
Anita Joseph  
Tadeh Karapetian  
Alexis Karugu  
Mijung Kim  
Natasha Kirkorian  
Rebecca Koelmeyer

Daisy Kolt  
Souha Korbatiéh  
Courtney Law  
Emily Layson  
Annica Leal  
Lucy Lester  
Tom Levy  
Adam Lewis  
William Lieu  
Phillipa Lo  
Joanna Ma  
Rehana Majid  
Sonali Malhotra  
Haneef Malik  
Joseph Mamo  
Filip Manganaro  
Kristina Marinov  
Lara Martyn-France  
Nick McArdle  
Haydn McDuff  
Judith McLeish  
Georgia Meredith  
Isla Miller  
Armand Moss  
Isabel Munro

Melani Muraleetharan  
Lily Murphy  
Leith Firas Naji  
Quincy Nguyen  
Quyen Nguyen  
Samarach Nov  
Ruby O'Kane  
Nina Prica  
Zarghona Rajabi  
Chitra Rangarajan  
Nicola Ray  
Elinore Rema  
Rebecca Renshaw  
Mevena Roshan  
Lachlan Rush  
Nailah Russel  
Harry Rutner  
Arnjali Sabapathy  
Meagan Satkunarajah  
Ahmad Sawan  
Alyssa Sealties  
Amanda Shalou  
Kathryn Sheng  
Roopan Sidhu  
Amelia Simpson

Ikjot Singh  
Andrea Smit  
Grace Stals  
Nina Stammbach  
Katherine Summers  
Beata Szabo  
Julianna Tan  
Davis Teague  
Abiram Thirunanthakumar  
Michael Thrower  
Parissa Tosif  
Max Vecchio  
Marie Veinberg  
Lydia Wade  
Lilian Hogni Wan  
Carly Warren  
Dinusha Wijesuriya  
Debby Xu  
Mona Abu Zalaf  
Daphne Zhou

# Practical Legal Training Students complete their legal training at RACS

**Dedicating several days a week over a significant period of time, these students become an integral part of the RACS team. Our PLTS support our lawyers and enable us to extend our impact. Thank you.**

Toni Best	Tegan Earnshaw	Felicia Lay	Quyen Nguyen	Ahmad Sawan	Alia Visvalingam
Tristan Black	Jennifer Festejo	Sophie Leaver	Jaimee O'Brien	Christopher Sebuliba	Harerta Woldemariam
Meghan Blackwood	Jessie Fleming	Rachel Mason	Stefan Pavlica	Rajan Sharma	Andrew Wright
Jacson Bova	Elizabeth Fredericks	Tin Min	Aakash Prasad	Miriam Succar	
Michael Cobcroft	Tarren Hunt	Isra Mohammed	April Ranson	Edwin Taylor	
Oliver Cumming	Suneeta Kamdar	Ellen Moore	Kate Sammut	Stephanie Van	

## Event volunteers

**To broaden awareness of the issues facing people seeking asylum and the work we do to support them, RACS holds events, attends festivals and relies heavily on a willing group of people to support us. Our team of volunteers give up weekends to support the cause and we are very grateful to them.**

Usman Ali	Lily Connolly-Keck	Carolyn Fernandez	Daniela Kostoska	Ann McCutcheon	Alexander Leal Smith
Isabelle Alvarez	Eleanor Connop	Margaret Gallogly	Rhonda Livingston	Nicole Mekler	Bianca Torossian
Hugo Atkinson	Antoinette d'Arbela	Louis Gasparinatos	Krystal Ly	Diana Montgomery	Chace Tran
Olivia Barlow	Majella Dunn	Amelia Gates	Keelin MacDonald	Lucia Osborne-Crowley	Dianne Williams
Robert Birmingham	Ronda Duong	Theresa Jackson	Liz MacKie	Judy Pincus	Louise Williams
Jackson Bova	Otiena Ellwand	Marie-Ellen Karykis	Siobhan Malkoun	Emma Prineas	Jadelyn Williamson
Bridget Bryan	Munir El-Omar	Margaret Kelly	Cameron Marchant	Felipe Serra-Martins	Denise Wireko-Brobby

### Marketing volunteers

Imogen Hunter - Graphic Design  
John Wade - Graphic Design

### Non-legal Pro Bono support

Merle Conyer - Wellbeing and debrief support for our judicial review team  
Kelly Beaumont, Non Profit Alliance - Board training  
Jason Elias, Elias Recruitment - Career advice for our legal interns and PLTs  
Stephen Feneley - Media training for our staff

# Volunteering time is time for you

Sue Whitehead works two days at the RACS office in Randwick as a volunteer.

*"I was never really interested in volunteering because all the volunteering jobs I heard about I thought, 'Oh, that's a bit boring'," she says. "Whereas this, it's the perfect fit really. So it works."*

Sue advises that *"Helping other people is a great thing to do to boost your own sense of wellbeing and purpose."*

*"I really believe in access to justice for asylum seekers and refugees," Sue says.*

*"I decided to work two consecutive days ... and the other things in my life have to be fitted around that."*

From @ABClife



## SBS Partnership

RACS was an SBS Foundation Partner for the period 2017-18. RACS' work was found to have strong alignment with SBS' purpose to explore, appreciate and celebrate our diverse world, and in doing so contribute to a cohesive society. As a Foundation partner we received free television airtime to increase awareness of our organisation and the work we do within the community which aligns with SBS' diverse audiences.

We are extraordinarily grateful to SBS for supporting us over the past year with the screening of our Community Service Announcement (CSA), "Blueberries", directed by Lynn-Maree Danzey and produced by Kathryn Milliss. The CSA highlights the values of compassion, respect, fairness and integrity, which are the foundation of the work we do with refugees. It can be seen here [youtu.be/SW73iCyennA](https://youtu.be/SW73iCyennA)

The CSA aired frequently across SBS television channels, including SBS and SBS VICELAND throughout the duration of the partnership. RACS' CSA aired more than 7,000 times across the year, often during some of SBS' most popular content including "Insight", the "2018 US Open Tennis", in-language news and current affairs programs, and documentaries such as "Muslims Like Us".

The impact of being a Foundation Partner has been quite extraordinary. Strangers have come up to us and commented on, the effectiveness of the CSA's message and how lucky we are to have it screened on television. One of our significant donors said that he had seen the CSA and it had moved him to donate to RACS. He lived in Queensland but attended an event in Sydney for RACS, just because he had seen the CSA. Awareness of our work has grown significantly as a result of this partnership.

SBS also welcomed RACS' representatives to the studio for a staff engagement event for the SBS television drama, 'Safe Harbour'. As Saskia Illot, SBS' Outreach manager commented "SBS staff were captivated by Arash Bordbar, Co-Chair of UNHCR Global Youth Advisory Council, a refugee and engineering student, who generously shared his story, and heard a memorable presentation from Tanya Jackson-Vaughan focusing on the work of RACS. SBS online platforms further supported RACS with editorial content aligned to documentaries 'Filthy Rich and Homeless', and 'Go back To Where You Came From', sharing details of RACS' services and providing links for readers seeking further information about issues raised in these programs."

A special thanks to the professional filmmakers who crafted our SBS "community service announcement", "Blueberries": director, Lynn-Maree



Danzey, Producer and Cinematographer Kathryn Milliss, designer Sarah Stollman, and Sound Recordist Stephen Jackson-Vaughan, who were supported by students from the The Sydney Film School.

Thank you to our actors, who worked pro bono, Michael Whalley and Raed Shaqah, Atika Hussain and RACS' Isobel McGarity.

Thank you also to our extras - RACS volunteers and Canterbury Girls High School students, Doha Al-Hasan, Ruby Wilkinson, Alessandra Sackey, Honara Monagle, Jessica Sanderson, Annisa Chedra, Tia Mohajer, Zoe Trenbath and Scarlett Stockdale-Linke.

We are also grateful to Sue Holden, from Canterbury Girls High, for allowing us to film in the school and for providing amazing young drama students for the CSA.



# The difference a community makes

We are proud to be supported by so many people who share our values and determination to improve the lives of refugees. We are grateful for your donations. Our shared commitment is making a difference.

Thank you to all our donors who supported our June and December Appeals, and to those who readily gave to our Emergency Appeal.

Thank you to those who donate through their workplace giving programs.

Thank you to those who are monthly donors. Your regular gift allows us to plan ahead and develop strategies to support all those who need our help.

Thank you to our extraordinary community fundraisers. The school children running cake



stalls, the church groups, those hosting trivia nights, and the senior citizen community groups holding fundraising events on our behalf – your commitment for a more caring and compassionate world is empowering.

Thank you to those who have left a gift to RACS in their Will.

And finally, thank you to the Foundations who believe in our work and trust us to be responsible custodians of their funds.

Every donation, no matter how small will make a difference to the lives of the vulnerable people we support.

# Philanthropy and the generosity of our supporters

## Why we support RACS: Vera Lee and Peter Krinks

RACS greatly values the everyday donors whose generous financial support enables us to provide life-changing legal services to people seeking safety and peace in Australia. Champion donors Peter and Vera shared their stories, motivations and their involvement with RACS.

Vera: Arriving in Australia in 1950 as a refugee from post-war Berlin, I was raised with a strong belief in equal rights and opportunities for all. While I'm grateful to have found safety and peace here, I've long been concerned that not all people seeking asylum in Australia have been afforded the same.

Peter: I moved to Australia in 1965 with a strong interest in global politics following worldwide travels and work. I find it difficult to weigh my freedom to travel around the globe against our government's unfair treatment of people fleeing appalling, threatening conditions.



Vera: That inequality is why organisations like RACS are so important – they are vital in helping people overcome cruel roadblocks to basic freedoms put in place by the Australian government.

Peter: While I support a number of organisations that assist and advocate for refugees, the

practical results RACS achieves, by assisting people navigate the difficult legal process of seeking asylum, are particularly important.

Vera: Each person helped allows others to have hope, without which there is only despair.

# We wish to recognise and thank the following organisations and foundations whose generous support is so critical to our work

They are the reason why we were able to assist over 4000 people to submit their applications by the 2017 deadline. Along with our pro bono law firms and community of individual donors, these foundations and organisations backed our vision to provide justice and dignity to refugees. Thank you.



Thyne Reid Foundation

Chill Foundation

Scully Fund

Cari Foundation

GNS Ceramics

# Thirty First Annual Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2018

**REFUGEE ADVICE AND CASEWORK SERVICE (AUSTRALIA) INC**

**ABN 46 008 173 978**

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*Photo by  
UNHCR/ S.Baldwin*



## REFUGEE ADVICE AND CASEWORK SERVICE (AUSTRALIA) INC

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

The Management Committee of Refugee and Advice Casework Service (Australia) present this report together with the financial statements of the entity for the financial year ended 30 June 2018 and the Independent Audit Report thereon.

#### Management Committee

The name of each person who has been a committee member during the year and to the date of this report are:

	Date resigned	Date appointed
Chris Yoo		
David Wiggins		
Leanne Ho		
James Nguyen		
Lachlan Murdoch		
Frances Voon		
Sue Cowden		
Ruth Johnstone		29/5/2018
Tim Gordon	29/11/2017	
Arthur Glass	25/7/2017	
Kate Mills	29/11/2017	

All committee members have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

#### Principal Activities

The principal activities during the financial year were:

- Provided free, specialist legal assistance to financially disadvantaged, vulnerable people seeking asylum and refugees seeking to reunite with families. To ensure people at risk of persecution have equal and fair legal representation.
- Legal Help for Refugees Clinic assists people seeking asylum who arrived by boat with their protection claims to the Department of Home Affairs and the Immigration Assessment Authority (IAA).
- Outreach Service assisted residents of the Parramatta & Auburn local government area with short drop-in sessions and longer sessions by appointment.
- Provided judicial review referral service for people seeking asylum who have been refused by or excluded from the IAA.
- Data Breach Clinic assisted people seeking asylum who may have been affected by the 2014 data breach on the Department of Immigration website.

There were no significant changes in the nature of the activities during the year.

## REFUGEE ADVICE AND CASEWORK SERVICE (AUSTRALIA) INC

### Operating results and review of operations

The operating result for the year was a surplus of \$218,644 (loss of \$403,710 for last year)

The organisation is exempt from income tax. A detailed review of operations can be found in the annual report.

### Rounding of amounts

The association is an entity to which ASIC Corporations (Rounding in Financial/Committee Member's Reports) Instrument 2016/191 applies and accordingly, amounts in the financial statements and Committee Members' Report have been rounded to the nearest dollar, unless specifically stated otherwise.

### Significant changes in state of affairs

There have been no significant changes in the state of affairs of the organisation during the year.

### Auditors Independence Declaration

A copy of the Auditors Independence Declaration as required under s.60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* is included in page 51 of the financial report.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Management Committee.



.....  
(President)

Dated this 27<sup>th</sup> day of November 2018

## REFUGEE ADVICE AND CASEWORK SERVICE (AUSTRALIA) INC

### STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

Revenue	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
Contract revenue			
- Community		151,184	221,583
- Primary Application Information Service		-	1,902,720
Donations & fundraising	9	1,738,079	1,616,504
Grants			
- Public Purpose Fund	13(a)	104,088	104,088
- Other grants (including Legal Aid)	13(b)	213,379	676,817
Interest income		53,931	29,037
Other Income		113,477	25,122
<b>Total revenue</b>		<b>2,374,138</b>	<b>4,575,871</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Administration expenses		128,692	140,879
Direct fundraising expenses	9(a)	45,414	34,342
Casework & taskforce expenses		225,796	558,078
Salary and other employee expenses		2,564,298	2,398,352
Depreciation		16,174	14,874
Onerous Contract utilisation	14	(853,000)	-
Onerous Contract costs	14	-	1,803,500
Sundry expenses		28,120	29,556
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>2,155,494</b>	<b>4,979,581</b>
<b>Surplus/(Loss) for the year</b>	2	<b>218,644</b>	<b>(403,710)</b>
<b>Total comprehensive (loss)/income</b>		<b>218,644</b>	<b>(403,710)</b>

*The statement of comprehensive income is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes to the financial statements.*



## REFUGEE ADVICE AND CASEWORK SERVICE (AUSTRALIA) INC

### STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN MEMBERS' FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
<b>Members' funds</b>		
Funds available for future use		
Balance at 1 July 2017	1,421,900	1,825,610
Surplus/(Loss) for the year	218,644	(403,710)
<b>Balance at 30 June 2018</b>	<u>1,640,544</u>	<u>1,421,900</u>

*The statement of changes in members' funds is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes to the financial statements.*

**REFUGEE ADVICE AND CASEWORK SERVICE (AUSTRALIA) INC**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AS AT 30 JUNE 2018**

		<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
		<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	1,290,345	1,884,700
Term deposits		1,710,455	31,110
Debtors and other receivables	4	52,102	262,283
Other assets	5	20,786	804,458
<b>Total current assets</b>		<u>3,073,688</u>	<u>2,982,551</u>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Term deposits		31,110	700,000
Property, plant and equipment		31,593	39,385
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<u>62,703</u>	<u>739,385</u>
<b>Total assets</b>		<u>3,136,391</u>	<u>3,721,936</u>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	6	377,002	328,118
Provision for onerous contract	14	726,811	780,983
Provision for employee entitlements	7	168,344	168,418
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<u>1,272,157</u>	<u>1,277,519</u>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Provision for onerous contract	14	223,689	1,022,517
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<u>223,689</u>	<u>1,022,517</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<u>1,495,846</u>	<u>2,300,036</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>1,640,545</u>	<u>1,421,900</u>
<b>Members' funds</b>			
Funds available for future use		1,640,545	1,421,900
<b>Total members' funds</b>		<u>1,640,545</u>	<u>1,421,900</u>

*The statement of financial position is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes to the financial statements.*

**REFUGEE ADVICE AND CASEWORK SERVICE (AUSTRALIA) INC****STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018**

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Cash receipts in the course of operations		3,488,712	3,838,268
Cash payments in the course of operations		(3,108,162)	(2,859,747)
Interest received		53,931	29,037
<b>Net cash from/(used in) operating activities</b>	8(b)	434,481	1,007,558
<b>Cash flows from/(used in) investing activities</b>			
Net cash from/(to) deposits		(1,010,454)	-
Payment for plant and equipment		(8,382)	(4,505)
<b>Net cash from/(used in) investing activities</b>		(1,018,836)	(4,505)
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash held</b>		(584,355)	1,003,053
<b>Cash at the beginning of the financial year</b>		1,874,700	881,647
<b>Cash at the end of the financial year</b>	8(a)	1,290,345	1,884,700

*The statement of cash flows is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes to the financial statements.*



## REFUGEE ADVICE AND CASEWORK SERVICE (AUSTRALIA) INC

### 1. Statement of compliance and summary of significant accounting policies

The financial statements are a special purpose financial report prepared by the Board in order to meet the needs of Refugee Advice and Casework Service (Australia) Inc. ("the Association"). The Management Committee has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity and therefore it is not necessary for the Association to comply with all of the disclosure requirements of the Accounting Standards and other financial reporting requirements promulgated by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ("AASB").

Apart from the exceptions noted below, the statements have been prepared in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and Regulations and Australian Accounting Standards (including the Accounting Interpretations) adopted by the AASB.

The disclosure requirements of the following Accounting Standards have not been complied with:

AASB 7	Financial Instruments: Disclosures
AASB 108	Accounting Policies, Estimates and Errors
AASB 124	Related Party Disclosures

The financial report is presented in Australian dollars, which is the functional currency and was authorised for issue by the Board on 27 November 2018.

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

#### **(a) Revenue recognition**

##### *Contract income*

Contract fee income is recognized when able to be invoiced to the contracting party.

##### *Interest income*

Interest income is recognised as it accrues.

##### *Donations and grant income*

The Association is a non-profit organisation and receives grant income and funds from donations. These amounts by their nature can only be recognised when received.

Donation income is banked into a separate bank account which consists only of money received as a result of fundraising in accordance with the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991.

Grant Income which is received in advance to cover expenditure in future periods is recognized in the financial statements as a current liability and identified as Grants in Advance.

#### **(b) Expenses**

Expenses are recognised when the cost has been incurred or the service performed.

## REFUGEE ADVICE AND CASEWORK SERVICE (AUSTRALIA) INC

### 1. Statement of compliance and summary of significant accounting policies (ctd)

#### **(c) Income tax**

The Association has been endorsed as an exempt charitable body for income tax purposes within the provisions of section 50-B of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

#### **(d) Recoverable amount of non-current assets valued on cost basis**

The carrying amounts of all non-current assets valued on the cost basis are reviewed to determine whether they are in excess of their recoverable amount at balance date.

#### **(e) Property, plant and equipment**

Plant and equipment, including leasehold improvements, are brought to account at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation or amortisation. These assets are depreciated using the straight line method over their useful lives, taking into account their estimated residual values.

#### **(f) Employee benefits**

##### *Wages, salaries and leave entitlements*

The provision for employees' entitlements to wages, salaries and annual or other forms of parental leave expected to be settled within 12 months of the year-end represent present obligations resulting from employees' services provided to reporting date, calculated at undiscounted amounts based on remuneration wage and salary rates that the entity expects to pay as at reporting date including related on-costs.

##### *Superannuation plan*

Contributions to employee superannuation funds are charged against income as they are made.

#### **(g) Cash and cash equivalents**

For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash includes cash on hand and at bank and short-term deposits at call. Cash as at the end of the financial year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position.

Any term deposits that have a maturity less than three months from inception are classified as cash on the statement of financial position. Any term deposits which have a maturity greater than three months from inception are classified as term deposits on the statement of financial position.

## REFUGEE ADVICE AND CASEWORK SERVICE (AUSTRALIA) INC

### 1. Statement of compliance and summary of significant accounting policies (ctd)

#### **(h) Goods and Services Tax**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office (ATO). In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated with GST included.

The net GST payable to the ATO is included as a current liability in the Statement of Financial Position.

Cash flows are included in the Statement of Cash Flows on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are classified as operating cash flows.

#### **(i) Members' Liability**

As an Association incorporated under the Associations Incorporations Act of New South Wales, members have no liability on the winding up of the Association.

#### **(j) Going Concern**

The financial report has been prepared on a going concern basis as the Management Committee believes the Association has sufficient accumulated funds to meet its debts as and when they fall due.

#### **(k) Trade and other receivables**

Trade receivables include amounts due from customers for services sold in the ordinary course of business. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of reporting period.

The carrying amount of the receivable is deemed to reflect fair value. An allowance for doubtful debts is made when there is objective evidence that the association will not be able to collect the debts. Bad debts are written off when identified.

Other receivables include accrued interest on term deposits.

#### **(l) Trade and other payables**

Trade and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting periods for goods and services received by the association during the reporting period which remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

#### **(m) Critical accounting estimates and judgements**

Management evaluates estimates and judgements incorporated into the financial statements based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the association.



## REFUGEE ADVICE AND CASEWORK SERVICE (AUSTRALIA) INC

### 1. Statement of compliance and summary of significant accounting policies (ctd)

The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements are as follows:

- Employee provisions (Note 7)
- Deferred income (Note 6)
- Onerous Contracts (note 14)

#### *(n) New standards and interpretations not yet adopted*

Certain new accounting standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for 30 June 2018 reporting years and have not been early adopted by the association. The Association's assessment of the impact of these new standards and interpretations is set out below.

<b>Title of Standard</b>	<b>AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers</b>
Nature of Change	<p>The AASB has issued a new standard for the recognition of revenue. This will replace AASB 118 which covers revenue arising from the sale of goods and the rendering of services and AASB 111 which covers construction contracts.</p> <p>The new standard is based on the principle that revenue is recognised when control of a good or service transfers to a customer.</p> <p>The standard permits either a full retrospective or a modified retrospective approach for the adoption.</p>
Impact	The Association does not think the new rules will have any impact on the Association's financial statements.
Mandatory application date/ Date of adoption by Association	<p>Mandatory for financial years commencing on or after 1 January 2019, but available for early adoption.</p> <p>Expected date of adoption by the Association: 1 July 2019.</p>
<b>Title of Standard</b>	<b>AASB 16 Leases</b>
Nature of Change	<p>AASB 16 was issued in February 2016. It will result in almost all leases being recognised on the balance sheet, as the distinction between operating and finance leases is removed. Under the new standard, an asset (the right to use the leased item) and a financial liability to pay rentals are recognised. The only exceptions are short-term and low-value leases.</p> <p>The accounting for lessors will not significantly change.</p>
Impact	The standard will affect primarily the accounting for the Association's operating leases. As at the reporting date, the Association has no non-cancellable operating lease commitments, see note 10.
Mandatory application date/ Date of adoption by Association	Mandatory for financial years commencing on or after 1 January 2019. At this stage, the Association does not intend to adopt the standard before its effective date.

## REFUGEE ADVICE AND CASEWORK SERVICE (AUSTRALIA) INC

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
<b>2 Surplus/(Loss) for the year</b>		
Surplus/(Loss) for the year has been arrived at after charging the following items:		
Depreciation	16,174	14,874
<b>3 Cash and cash equivalents</b>		
Business account and petty cash	641,902	625,934
Fundraising account	286,351	881,404
Cash management account	56,177	75,790
Other call deposits	305,915	301,572
	<u>1,290,345</u>	<u>1,884,700</u>
<b>4 Debtors and other receivables</b>		
Trade debtors	5,260	241,657
Rental deposits	1,050	1,050
Accrued interest	16,110	5,753
Other receivables	29,682	8,824
	<u>52,102</u>	<u>257,284</u>
<b>5 Other assets</b>		
Unbilled income	10,243	796,027
Prepayments	10,543	8,431
	<u>20,786</u>	<u>804,458</u>
<b>6 Trade and other payables</b>		
PAYG payable	27,057	34,597
Superannuation	14,690	21,156
GST payable/(receivable)	139	34,319
Sundry creditors	4,270	15,260
Accruals	14,533	50,640
Grants in Advance	316,313	163,323
<b>Carrying amount at the end of the year</b>	<u>377,002</u>	<u>319,295</u>
<b>7 Provisions for employee entitlements</b>		
Provision for annual leave	146,608	150,762
Provision for long service leave	21,736	17,656
	<u>168,344</u>	<u>168,418</u>

## REFUGEE ADVICE AND CASEWORK SERVICE (AUSTRALIA) INC

8	Notes to the cash flow statement	2018 \$	2017 \$
	<b>(a) Reconciliation of cash</b>		
	Cash on hand, at bank and on call	1,290,345	1,884,700
	<b>(b) Reconciliation of Surplus/(Loss) for the year to net cash provided by operating activities</b>		
	<b>Surplus/(Loss) for the year</b>	218,644	(403,710)
	Add/(less) non-cash items:		
	Depreciation	16,174	14,874
	Net cash (used)/provided in operating activities before changes in assets and liabilities	234,818	(388,836)
	<b>Changes in assets and liabilities</b>		
	(Increase)/decrease in debtors and other receivables	210,181	(73,681)
	(Increase)/decrease in other assets	783,671	(387,488)
	(Increase)/decrease in floating rate notes	-	149,075
	Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	53,777	(127,740)
	Increase/ (Decrease) in Onerous Contracts	(852,999)	1,803,500
	Increase/ (Decrease) in provisions	(4,967)	32,728
	Net cash provided by operating activities	424,481	1,007,558

### 9 Disclosures pursuant to the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991

Fundraising conducted during the financial year totalled \$1,738,079 (2017 - \$1,616,504). Of this amount, \$1,738,079 (2017 - \$1,616,504) was recognised as income during the year.

In accordance with Section 20 of the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991, monies received in the course of fundraising appeals are applied according to the objects or purposes of the appeal net of proper and appropriate expenses

#### (a) Information on material matters

	2018 \$	2017 \$
Gross proceeds from fundraising appeals		
General Public	816,920	809,004
Foundations & Other NFP's	921,159	807,500
Total donations & fundraising	1,738,079	1,616,504
Less: Direct costs of fundraising appeals	(45,414)	(34,342)
Less: Indirect costs of fundraising appeals	(42,593)	(41,617)
Net surplus obtained from fundraising appeals	1,650,072	1,540,545

## REFUGEE ADVICE AND CASEWORK SERVICE (AUSTRALIA) INC

### (b) Comparison of certain monetary figures and percentages

	2018	2018	2017	2017
	\$	%	\$	%
Total cost of fundraising/ gross income from fundraising	88,007		75,959	
	<u>1,738,079</u>	5.1	<u>1,616,504</u>	4.6
Net surplus from fundraising/ gross income from fundraising	1,650,072		1,540,545	
	<u>1,738,079</u>	94.9	<u>1,616,504</u>	95.4

### 10. Commitments

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
<b>Operating lease commitments</b>		
Future operating lease rentals not provided for in the financial statements and payable:	-	-

The Association has rent free-lease agreement offered for three years with University of New South Wales expiring in September 2021. The agreement is about to be signed by both parties and the Association moved into the premises on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

### 11. Events subsequent to balance date

There has not arisen in the interval between the end of the financial year and the date of this report any other item, transaction or event of a material and unusual nature likely, in the opinion of the management committee, to affect significantly the operations of the Association, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Association in subsequent financial years.

### 12. Contingent liability

The Association has an obligation to provide continued legal representation to clients who had their casework funded by Department of Home Affairs (DOHA). Notwithstanding that certain funding has been received by the Australian Government to enable the Association, in part, to meet those obligations, a provision for onerous contracts has been released in this financial year.

### 13. Funding from the Public Purpose Fund & Legal Aid

Note A	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Gross proceeds from Public Purpose Fund	104,088	104,088
<b>Application of grant funds obtained</b>		
Administration costs	9,368	11,386
Salaries	94,720	92,702
	<u>104,088</u>	<u>104,088</u>



## REFUGEE ADVICE AND CASEWORK SERVICE (AUSTRALIA) INC

### Note B

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Gross proceeds from one off Legal Aid grants	213,387	297,500
<b>Application of grant funds obtained</b>		
Interpretation & Admin costs	20,257	74,375
Salaries	193,130	223,125

### 14. Provision for onerous contract

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) has paid an amount of money to the Association to fund its continued legal representation of clients who had their casework funded by DIBP. In December 2017 DIBP became part of the Department of Home Affairs (DOHA). Management has made an assessment of the expected future costs to be incurred by the Association to fulfil the term of the contract and found the contract to be an "onerous contract" as defined under Australian Accounting Standards. Accordingly, a provision for the future expected costs to be incurred in relation to this contract has been raised in these financial statements.

<b>Provision for onerous contract</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
	\$	\$
Opening Balance at 1 July	1,803,500	-
Provision raised during the year	-	1,803,500
Utilised during the year	(853,000)	-
Released during the year	-	-
Closing balance at 30 June	950,500	1,803,500
<b>Current liability</b>		
Onerous contract liability	726,811	780,983
<b>Non-current liability</b>		
Onerous contract liability	223,689	1,022,517
Total provision	950,500	1,803,500


## REFUGEE ADVICE AND CASEWORK SERVICE (AUSTRALIA) INC

### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE DECLARATION

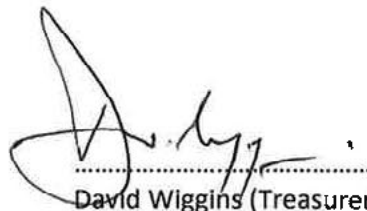
In accordance with a resolution of the Management Committee of Refugee Advice and Casework Service (Australia) Inc., the committee declare that:

1. The financial statement and notes, as set out on pages 5 to 16, are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and:
  - a. comply with Australian Accounting Standards; and
  - b. give a true and fair view of the financial position of the association as at 30 June 2018 and of its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. In the committee's opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.
3. Pursuant to the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (NSW);
  - (a) the profit and loss and other comprehensive income is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of income and expenditure of the association for the year ended 30 June 2018 with respect to fundraising appeals;
  - (b) the statement of financial position is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the association as at 30 June 2018 with respect to the fundraising appeals;
  - (c) the provisions of the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991(NSW) and the regulations under the Act and the conditions attached to the association have been complied with for the year ended 30 June 2018; and
  - (d) the internal controls exercised by the association are appropriate and effective in accounting for all income received and applied by the association from any of the fundraising appeals.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the members of the Management Committee.



Chris Yoo (President)



David Wiggins (Treasurer)

## *Auditor's Independence Declaration*

As lead auditor for the audit of Refugee Advice and Casework Service (Australia) Inc for the year ended 30 June 2018, I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



Nicholas James  
Partner  
PricewaterhouseCoopers

Sydney  
27 November 2018

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## Independent auditor's report

To the members of Refugee Advice and Casework Service (Australia) Inc

### Our opinion

In our opinion:

The accompanying financial report of Refugee Advice and Casework Service (Australia) Inc (the Association) is in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) Act 2012*, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2018 and of its financial performance for the year then ended
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

### What we have audited

The financial report comprises:

- the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2018
- the statement of comprehensive income for the year then ended
- the statement of changes in members' funds for the year then ended
- the statement of cash flows for the year then ended
- the notes to the financial statements, which include a summary of significant accounting policies
- the declaration of the Committee members.

### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report* section of our report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Independence

We are independent of the Association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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### *Emphasis of matter - basis of accounting and restriction on use*

We draw attention to Note 1 in the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Committee members' financial reporting responsibilities under the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) Act 2012*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for Refugee Advice and Casework Service (Australia) Inc and its members and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than Refugee Advice and Casework Service (Australia) Inc and its members. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

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### *Other information*

The Committee members are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report for the year ended 30 June 2018, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed on the other information that we obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

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### *Responsibilities of the Committee members for the financial report*

The Committee members of the Association are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) Act 2012* and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The Committee members' responsibility also includes such internal control as the Committee members determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Committee members are responsible for assessing the ability of the Association to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Committee members either intend to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

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### *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report*

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at:  
[http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors\\_responsibilities/ar4.pdf](http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

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### *Matters relating to the electronic presentation of the audited financial report*

This auditor's report relates to the financial report of Refugee Advice and Casework Service (Australia) Inc for the year ended 30 June 2018 included on Refugee Advice and Casework Service (Australia) Inc's web site. The Committee members of the Association are responsible for the integrity of Refugee Advice and Casework Service (Australia) Inc's web site. We have not been engaged to report on the integrity of this web site. The auditor's report refers only to the financial report named above. It does not provide an opinion on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to the financial report. If users of this report are concerned with the inherent risks arising from electronic data communications they are advised to refer to the hard copy of the audited financial report to confirm the information included in the audited financial report presented on this web site.

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### *Report on the Requirements of the NSW Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and the NSW Charitable Fundraising Regulation 2015*

We have audited the financial report of Refugee Advice and Casework Service (Australia) Inc (the Association) as required by Section 24(2) of the NSW Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (NSW Act). The directors of the company are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial report in accordance with the NSW Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and NSW Charitable Fundraising Regulation 2015 (NSW Regulation). Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit.

In our opinion, in all material respects:

- (a) the financial report of the Company is prepared and associated records have been properly kept, during the financial year ended 30 June 2018, in accordance with:
  - (i) sections 20(1), 22(1-2) and 24(1-3) of the NSW Charitable Fundraising Act 1991; and
  - (ii) sections 10(6) and 11 of the NSW Charitable Fundraising Regulation 2015; and



(b) Money received as a result of fundraising appeals activities conducted by the Company during the financial year ended 30 June 2018 has been properly accounted for and applied in accordance with the above mentioned NSW Act and NSW Regulation.

PricewaterhouseCoopers.  
PricewaterhouseCoopers

N. James.  
Nicholas James  
Partner

Sydney  
27 November 2018



## GET IN TOUCH

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