

REFUGEE ADVICE AND CASEWORK SERVICE (AUSTRALIA) INC

**FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT
2003-2004**

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1. President's foreword

The Refugee Advice and Casework Service (Aust) Inc ('RACS') is Australia's oldest, leading community legal centre specialising in the provision of immigration law assistance to asylum seekers seeking to be recognised as refugees.

RACS is a not-for-profit organisation, relying primarily on funding from the Australian Government, donations from the community, an invaluable volunteer network and a Management Committee. It is staffed by a team of refugee-specialist lawyers dedicated to the protection of refugees. The lawyers provide legal advice and assist asylum seekers (whether they are in one of the Australian immigration detention centres or living in the community) in their applications for protection visas. This is vital work as asylum seekers must be recognised by the Government as Convention refugees in order that they may be afforded the protection from Australia they so desperately require.

RACS works in an ever-changing environment in terms of refugee policy and the numbers of arrivals. The introduction of Temporary Protection Visas (TPVs) 4 years ago has had a very significant impact on RACS work. As the reassessment of TPV holders continued throughout the financial year, RACS tried to ensure that as many TPV holders as possible understood the regime, their rights and obligations. RACS communicates this information through a variety of means including information nights, evening face-to-face advice and detailed pamphlets and fact sheets – all of which is free. This material and advice is available in a number of languages. RACS is very proud of its multi-lingual staff and volunteers.

It is difficult to predict the future of refugee determination in Australia. One can never know in a given financial year how many asylum seekers will journey towards Australia nor how many of these will enter the Australian migration zone. Ideally, the day will come when there are no refugees or internally displaced people. The United Nations, when setting the original mandate of the UNHCR, believed this day was going to come almost 50 years ago. In the absence of sufficient political will from the international community to seriously address persecution, there is little indication that this day will come in the next 50 years. Until it comes, the services that RACS provides will remain vital. The more funding that individuals, organisations and government are able to give to RACS, the more RACS will be able to help.

I would like to thank all of the staff of RACS, the volunteers, those who fund RACS, the Management Committee and all other persons who have made it possible for RACS to provide such an outstanding legal service for the most vulnerable of people.

Alistair Gee

President

2. Organisational overview

RACS was originally set up as a Victorian-based entity in May 1988 to provide a legal service to meet the specific needs of asylum seekers. Organisations involved in this establishment include the Refugee Council of Australia, Amnesty International, The Ecumenical Migration Service, International Social Services and the Jesuit Refugee Service. On 1 July 1997, RACS (Victoria) as it was then known, changed its name to RACS (Australia) in order to set up a national entity with offices in Melbourne and Sydney.

RACS is now based and incorporated in New South Wales. This was a consequence of RACS continuing to operate out of its Sydney office, while the Melbourne office merged with the Victorian Immigration Advice and Rights Centre to become the Refugee and Immigration Legal Centre (RILC).

RACS has continued to provide a comprehensive, thorough specialist refugee advice service throughout these changes. This unique and vital service continues to work closely with a broad network of legal and inter-agency support services, including the client-based services of many other organisations such as the Red Cross, Amnesty International, the Asylum Seekers Centre (ASC), the Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors (STARTTS), the National Council of Churches and the Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA). RACS' involvement with these organisations - which are similarly committed to assisting asylum seekers - is critical to its information sharing and support base.

In its activities and concerns, RACS embraces the international, national and local levels.

International

RACS derives its mandate from the United Nations Convention (1951) and Protocol (1967) Relating to the Status of Refugees. Through our links with the Australian Office of the UNHCR, our attendance and participation at a wide range of conferences and seminars, and our subscription to a variety of international legal journals, RACS aims not only to keep abreast of current thinking in international refugee law, but to contribute to the development of the refugee area wherever possible. This occurs through the exchange of views, experience, information and support throughout the world. The possibilities and practice in this regard have been greatly enhanced in recent times by use of the internet.

National Level

RACS continues to play a significant role in the development of national policy on refugee law and procedure through its participation in a broad range of activities. This includes participation and advocacy at the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) and Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) liaison meetings. In addition, we have also made written and oral submissions to the Senate Legal and Constitutional References Committee, as well as providing regular submissions to the

DIMIA. These submissions have been made on issues which are directly relevant to the protection and promotion of rights of asylum seekers under Australian law; issues which RACS is uniquely placed to comment on given its direct experience on a day-to-day basis with issues confronting asylum seekers throughout the determination process and beyond.

Local Level

While the focus of RACS' work has continued to be at the local level, with the direct provision of casework advice and assistance to asylum seekers both in the community and to those held in immigration detention at Villawood, we also perform a considerable casework role throughout Australia. This includes the provision of advice and assistance to asylum seekers held in detention in remote areas such as Baxter Immigration Detention Facility (IDF).

RACS' staff also provide community education and training sessions to lawyers, migration agents, community workers, students and the general public in a wide variety of fora.

There is a decreasing number of private and community organisations which provide legal assistance to asylum seekers in New South Wales, and RACS is the only specialist legal community organisation providing full assistance to protection visa applicants. The fact that all of the assistance provided by RACS is not for profit and free is also fundamental, given that the vast majority of our clients lack the financial means to privately fund the assistance required to fully and properly pursue their rights.

In 2002, a new project was initiated, the Temporary Protection Visa (TPV) Legal Project. This Project was established to assist the large number of refugees whose three year TPVs were about to expire and who required legal assistance with applications for further protection. RACS coordinates the TPV Legal Project, through the Caseworker/TPV Coordinator position. The Project is steered by the NSW Asylum Seekers Inter-agency's TPV Legal Working Group. In 2003, this project trained 60 volunteer solicitors to assist refugees holding TPVs and, in 2004, another 55 volunteer solicitors. This service is especially important as almost all of the 4,100 TPV holders residing in NSW are not eligible for Legal Aid, and the immigration process is in a state of considerable uncertainty following recent legislative change. About 190 TPV holders have utilised this service throughout 2003-2004. RACS also participated in a number of community briefing sessions held for refugees on TPVs. In 2003, RACS received very positive publicity for this project through an article in the August Law Society Journal.

3. Aims of RACS

- To provide a free, expert legal service for individuals seeking asylum in Australia.
- To provide referral for counseling and assistance on related welfare issues such as accommodation, social security, employment, psychological support, language training and education.
- To provide a high standard of community education about refugee law, policy and procedure.
- To provide training sessions, workshops and seminars on refugee law, policy and procedure to legal and welfare agencies and individuals involved in advising and assisting refugees.
- To establish a resource base of current information and documentation necessary to support claims, for use by RACS, community organisations and lawyers assisting refugee claimants.
- To participate in the development of refugee policy in Australia as it relates to the rights of those seeking asylum in this country.

At a broader level, RACS aims to promote asylum seeker issues by raising public awareness of asylum seekers and promoting and assisting asylum seekers in a refugee determination process which both protects and promotes the rights of asylum seekers in the context of Australia's international obligations.

4. Details of the service

The RACS office is based in Sydney. It operates a full-time casework service from Monday to Friday between the hours of 9.00am and 5.00pm.

Monday Evening Advice: 5.30pm-8.30pm. This service is run by staff and volunteers.

Tuesday Evening TPV assistance: 5.30pm-9pm. This service is run by staff and volunteers.

Wednesday Telephone Advice: 10am-4pm.

Our contact details are as follows:

| | | | |
|----------|---|--------|--|
| Address: | Level 8 Suite 8C 46-56 Kippax Street Surry Hills NSW 2010 | Fax: | (02) 9281 8078 |
| | | Web: | www.racs.org.au |
| Tel: | (02) 9211 4001 | Email: | admin@racs.org.au |

5. Service's structure

The management committee

The Constitution and Rules of RACS provide that organisations and individuals may nominate representatives and individuals to the Committee of Management.

The following individuals were office-holders during 2003-2004:

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| President | Alistair Gee |
| Vice-President | Sylvia Winton (<i>Asylum Seekers Centre</i>) |
| Treasurer | Sylvia Winton (<i>Asylum Seekers Centre</i>) |
| Committee Members: | Margaret Piper (<i>Refugee Council of Australia</i>) |
| | Lachlan Murdoch (<i>STARTTS</i>) |
| | Gamal Dowlately |
| | Fleur Johns |
| | Jennifer Grover (<i>Australian Red Cross</i>) |
| | Joanne Kinslor |

The Public Officer

The Constitution and Rules of RACS provide for a public officer. The public officer, currently Alistair Gee, is responsible for keeping proper records.

Staff

Louise Boon-Kuo was the Coordinator until 13 May 2004, when Mark Green was appointed.

Caseworkers at RACS included Melissa McAdam, Graham Jones, Christian Carney, Louise Boon-Kuo and Parastou Hatami. In December 2003 Graham Jones left the organisation. RACS thanks Graham for his contributions to RACS, and wishes him the best in his future endeavours.

Annie Huang was the Administrative and Research Assistant.

Max Morgan has continued to give to RACS his considerable time, knowledge and experience in order to ensure that our finances and financial records are properly maintained. His commitment to the organisation has also been demonstrated in many other ways. He has generously donated many extra hours to the organisation.

6. Funding

Throughout the year, the funding position of RACS has been stable. RACS has secured a further IAAAS contract with the Commonwealth which commences on 1 July 2004. Under this contract, RACS receives funding for performance of the following work:

- The provision of full application assistance for asylum seekers held in immigration *detention* in Sydney (Villawood), Port Hedland and Baxter IDF, at both the primary and RRT stages.
- The provision of full application assistance for disadvantaged asylum seekers in the *community* in New South Wales and the ACT, at both the primary and RRT stages.
- Immigration advice for disadvantaged asylum seekers in the community in New South Wales, including immigration advice face-to-face, by telephone and by way of written referral to government agencies, other registered migration agents (where the client is not eligible for full application assistance under the IAAAS contract) and community organisations. This also includes conducting information sessions for community groups.

The funding from the IAAAS contracts falls seriously short of meeting the needs of disadvantaged asylum seekers contacting RACS. One third of all assistance provided to asylum seekers in the community was provided by RACS on a *pro bono* basis.

RACS has continued to diversify its funding base. This is particularly important as RACS' IAAAS detention contract is contingent upon new arrivals of asylum seekers arriving without immigration clearance. Throughout this year fundraising efforts have been two-fold. Grant seeking efforts have been successful, with a grant from the Law and Justice Foundation. RACS has also received donations from organisations such as Balmain for Refugees, Circus Oz, Yoga in Daily life, and UNSW Student Law Society. In addition RACS has received support from several individuals and a private trust.

7. Volunteers

RACS volunteers continued to play an invaluable role in the organisation. Our volunteers contributed countless hours of their spare time to providing essential assistance to asylum seekers in the community, as well as providing back up support for staff.

The following persons volunteered for RACS during 2003-2004:

Day Volunteers

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Zoe Andersen | Simon Levett | Sarah Prince |
| Juliet Curtin | Vicky Lin | Komathy Rajaratham |
| Michael Dalla-Pozza | Makiz | Kim Tuaine |
| Julia Emerton | Arthur McCulloch | Kathryn Viegas |
| Louisa Fitz-Gerald | Charles Maltby | Lai Yeen Wong |
| Annie Huang | Matthew O'Sullivan | |
| Rowena Irish | Georgina Pike | |

Evening Advice Volunteers

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Andre Benjamin | Steven Glass | Harkishin R Thadani |
| Jane Brock | Annie Huang | Julie Todaro |
| Peter Brock | Chris Joyce | Mark Webster |
| Sarah Di Giglio | Joanne Kinslor | Andrew Wright |
| Meredith Dodds | Christine Michael | |
| Penny Gerstle | Helen Styles | |

TPV Legal Project Volunteers

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Andrew Miers | Costas Agryrou | Jackie Svenson |
| Ann Peterson | Deborah Potter | Julia Bruce |
| Aaron Tang | Diane Anagos | James Mills |
| Adrienne Vella | Emma Carmody | Jamie Downie |
| Anita Kanetkar | Emily Forsyth | Joanna Hemingway |
| Bryrony Feltham | Elizabeth Misfud | Joe Tan |
| Clea Weibenga | Fiona Allison | Joanna Zain |
| Christine Michael | Farnham | John Truswell |
| Claire Forster | Gina Kim | Julianna Tang |
| Carly Jassy | Geraldine Chin | Jo Kwan |
| Catherine Chang | Graeme Edgerton | Kath O'Conner |
| Cathie Day | Helen Fraser | Katherine Giles |
| Christian Carney | Jackie Hartman | Kaye Sato |
| Catherine Hinwood | Jjames Arnott | Karen Criticos |
| Caitlin Westgarth | Helen Wodak | Karin Ragel |

Khiloud Shakir
Katie Wrigley
Laurie Berg
Matt O'Sullivan
Margaret Farmer
Meghan Magnusson
Meg West
Mary Gleeson
Miranda Nagy
Mia O'Brien
Nerida Peart
Nicholas Ross
Nassim Arage
Olga Gruillen
Parissa Notaras

Pepe Clark
Posit Lashaphan
Quyn Nguyen
Rowena Irish
Rachel Kelleher
Renee Saibi
Rosita Cassano
Ryan Walker
Randa Abdel Fattah
Ross Nicholas
Sally Frenenstein
Simone Farrar
Sophie Redmond
Suede Stanton
Susanna Taylor

Tara Eaton
Tim McCauley
Kim May
Megan Haire
Megan Braynem
Suhad Kamand
Stuart Englund
Theresa Baw
Warren Kalinko
Yvette Holt
Zoe Hillman
Vijay Ratnam-Ranan
Terry Liebman
Povyan Afshar
Peter Olds

Volunteer Interpreters

Maethim Al Kafajy
Farnham
Eshaq Dadyar
Djavid Shahafar
Fariba Mozayani
Abdul Ali Oruzgani
Kadim Hussain Fayaz
Abdul Hekmat
Habib Ghani
Azadeh Dastyari
Homeira Hosseini
Amir Tambrchi
Sarah Klisarov
Sahar
Mamoon Reza
Riz Wakil

Kian
Pari Batha
Gitty
Moameni Kourosch
Arash Vatanzad
Mohamed Abu Shaban
Bernard Khoshaba
Nadia Arrage
Jamal Daoud
Hassan Saleh
Nizar Shammu
Darius Mabior
Mohammad Kader
Fozia Saeed
Nagui Elwasfi
Andre

Amany Nuseibeh
Wa'el Sabri
Zeenat Habib
Fabian Tilemans
Debbie
Owen
Aurelia Roper-Tyler
Angelo Berbetto
Anwar Sadath Bashir
Mohammad Kader
Helal Faili
Liz Biok
Maryam Mostghimi
Neshaat Manshadi
Rafat Mirzaie

8. Clients and casework

The major focus of RACS is the provision of legal services to asylum seekers and refugees. In the 2003-2004 year, RACS assisted 670 people through comprehensive casework assistance, advice provided through appointment or by telephone, and through referrals to other agencies. RACS took on 115 new ongoing clients, comprising 50 asylum seekers in detention, 36 in the community, and 29 on a *pro bono* basis. We assisted 190 TPV holders through the TPV Legal Project and 230 people at various stages of the refugee determination process through our Monday evening advice service. In addition we provided advice over the telephone to 134 people. This year, RACS has included additional statistical breakdowns of the number, country of origin, and types of matters for which people have sought face-to-face advice. This also assists RACS in evaluating our current strategies to provide the best possible assistance at all levels of service.

As the tables below illustrate, RACS clients are from many and diverse countries, with many and varied experiences. What all have in common is living away from their country of origin, many having been forced to flee from persecution and human rights abuses. They continue to show enormous courage, dignity and fortitude in a world where cruelty, injustice and inhumanity continue to loom large in theirs and so many other people's lives.

We are immensely proud and privileged to have had the opportunity to assist these people and to play some role in their lives and futures.

Table 1: New Clients in 2003/2004

| COUNTRY OF ORIGIN | Total Community | Total Detention | Limited Assistance (Pro Bono) | Total per Country |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Aceh | | 1 | | 1 |
| Afganistan | 10 | 1 | 2 | 13 |
| Albania | | 1 | | 1 |
| Algeria | | | 3 | 3 |
| Bangladesh | | 1 | | 1 |
| Burma | | 2 | | 2 |
| Chile | 1 | | | 1 |
| China | | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Colombia | | | 1 | 1 |
| Congo | | 1 | | 1 |
| Croatia | | 1 | | 1 |
| EastTimor | | | 1 | 1 |
| Eritrea | 2 | | 1 | 3 |
| Ghana | 1 | | | 1 |
| Guinea | 1 | | | 1 |
| India | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Indonesia | 1 | 1 | | 2 |
| Iran | 2 | 10 | 3 | 15 |
| Iraq | 6 | 1 | 7 | 14 |
| Jordon | 2 | | | 2 |
| Kenya | | | 1 | 1 |
| Kosovo | 2 | | | 2 |
| Kuwait | | | 1 | 1 |
| Lebanon | | 1 | | 1 |
| Liberia | | 1 | | 1 |
| Malaysia | 1 | | | 1 |
| Nigeria | | 2 | | 2 |
| Nepal | | 3 | | 3 |
| North Korea | | 1 | | 1 |
| Pakistan | 1 | 1 | | 2 |
| Palestine | 1 | | | 1 |
| Peru | | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| PNG | | | 1 | 1 |
| Poland | 1 | | | 1 |
| South Africa | | 1 | | 1 |
| South Korea | | 2 | | 2 |
| Sri Lanka | | 1 | | 1 |
| Stateless | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Taiwan | | 1 | | 1 |
| Tonga | | 2 | | 2 |
| Turkey | 2 | 1 | | 3 |
| Uganda | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Uruguay | | | 1 | 1 |
| Vietnam | | 4 | | 4 |
| Zimbabwe | | 1 | | 1 |
| TOTAL (By Type) | 36 | 50 | 29 | |
| GRAND TOTAL | | | 115 | 115 |

Comments on Table 1:

'Community' refers to clients who are living in the community.

'Detention' refers to clients who are in immigration detention at the time of referral.

'Limited assistance' refers to matters where RACS provides often quite substantial assistance but does not agree to become the solicitor on the record.

'Pro bono' refers to matters where RACS provides comprehensive casework assistance, but does not receive any funding for the case. Almost all these clients were in the community. Those matters in immigration detention taken on pro bono may include clients in Nauru, clients whose visas have been cancelled, and clients who wish to make a second protection visa application. These clients are ineligible for funded legal assistance.

From the above table it is evident that almost 45% of RACS comprehensive casework for clients in the community was undertaken on a pro bono basis. The major reason for this is that the funding RACS receives for community clients is capped at an amount insufficient to meet the number of eligible clients with cases of merit. These figures indisputably attest to the fact that need of asylum seekers and refugees for legal services significantly exceeds our funded capacity to meet it.

Table 2: Results Summary 2003/2004 for Community Clients

| Country | Primary | | Review | | Unresolved |
|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|
| | Yes | No | Yes | No | |
| Aceh | | | | | |
| Afghanistan | 3 | 1 | 2 | | 5 |
| Algeria | | | | | |
| Bangladesh | | | | | |
| Burma | | | | | |
| Cambodia | | | | | |
| Chile | | | | | 1 |
| China | | | | | |
| Colombia | | | | | |
| East Timor | | | | | |
| Eritrea | | | | | 2 |
| Ghana | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Guinea | | | | | 1 |
| Indonesia | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Iran | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Iraq | | | | | 6 |
| Jordan | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Kenya | | | | | |
| Korea | | | | | |
| Kosovo | 1 | | 1 | | |
| Lebanon | | | | | |
| Malaysia | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Mongolia | | | | | |
| Morocco | | | | | |
| Nepal | | | | | |
| Pakistan | | | 1 | | |
| Palestine | | | | | 1 |
| Poland | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Russia | | | | | |
| Senegal | | | | | |
| Sierra Leone | | | | | |
| Sri Lanka | | | | | |
| Stateless | | | | | 1 |
| Sudan | | | | | |
| Tibet | | | | | |
| Turkey | | | | | 2 |
| Uganda | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Vietnam | | | | | |
| Zimbabwe | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 4 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 26 |
| GRAND TOTAL | | | | | 42 |

Comment on Table 2:

As matters are in varying stages of completion, the grand total will not correlate with other case statistics. For example, some matters may finalise in one stage, and so are entered in the table once, others may remain unresolved after review stage.

Table 3: Results Summary 2003/2004 for clients in detention

| Country | Primary | | Review | | Unresolved* | Others** |
|--------------------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| | Yes | No | Yes | No | | |
| Aceh | | 1 | | | 1 | |
| Afghanistan | | | | | 1 | |
| Albania | | | 1 | | | |
| Algeria | | | | | | |
| Bangladesh | | | 1 | | | |
| Bulgaria | | | | | | |
| Burma | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| China | | | 1 | 3 | 3 | |
| Congo | 1 | | | | | |
| Croatia | | 1 | | | 1 | |
| Fiji | | | | | | |
| India | | | | 1 | 1 | |
| Indonesia | | | 1 | | | |
| Iran | | | 3 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Iraq | | | | | 1 | |
| Isreal | | | | | | |
| Kenya | | | | | | |
| Lebanon | | | | | | 1 |
| Liberia | | 1 | | | 1 | |
| Nepal | | 1 | | 1 | 3 | |
| Nigeria | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| North Korea | | | | | 1 | |
| Pakistan | | 1 | | | 1 | |
| Peru | | | | 1 | 1 | |
| Romania | | | | | | |
| South Africa | | 1 | | | 1 | |
| South Korea | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Sri Lanka | | 1 | | | 1 | |
| Stateless | | | | | | |
| Taiwan | | | | 1 | | |
| Tonga | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Turkey | | | 1 | | | |
| Uganda | | | 1 | | | |
| Ukraine | | | | | | |
| Vietnam | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | |
| West Samoa | | | | | | |
| Zimbabwe | | | 1 | | | |
| TOTAL | 1 | 7 | 13 | 14 | 24 | 8 |
| GRAND TOTAL | | | | | | 67 |

*RRT application, s417/s48B request, Judicial Review

**changed solicitor, removed, AAT

Comment on Table 3:

As matters are in varying stages of completion, the grand total will not correlate with other case statistics. For example, some matters may finalise in one stage, and so are entered in the table once, others may remain unresolved after review stage.

Table 4: 2003-2004 Face-to-face advice provided by country

| COUNTRY OF ORIGIN | Evening Advice | TPV Advice (from October 2003) | Total Per Country |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Afganistan | 30 | 80 | 110 |
| Algeria | 1 | | 1 |
| Armenia | 1 | | 1 |
| Bangladesh | 6 | | 6 |
| Bahrin | 1 | | 1 |
| Burma | 2 | | 2 |
| China | 6 | | 6 |
| Colombia | 2 | | 2 |
| EastTimor | 1 | | 1 |
| Egypt | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| Equador | 1 | | 1 |
| Fiji | 4 | | 4 |
| Ghana | 1 | | 1 |
| Hungary | 1 | | 1 |
| India | 8 | | 8 |
| Indonesia | 33 | | 33 |
| Iran | 13 | 3 | 16 |
| Iraq | 21 | 36 | 57 |
| Jordan | 1 | | 1 |
| Kenya | 6 | | 6 |
| Latvia | 1 | | 1 |
| Lebanon | 3 | | 3 |
| Liberia | 1 | | 1 |
| Malaysia | 2 | | 2 |
| Mongolia | 1 | | 1 |
| Montenegro | 1 | | 1 |
| Nigeria | 1 | | 1 |
| Nepal | 1 | | 1 |
| Pakistan | 11 | | 11 |
| Palestine | 2 | | 2 |
| Peru | 4 | | 4 |
| Poland | 1 | | 1 |
| Russia | 3 | | 3 |
| Sierra Leone | 4 | | 4 |
| Singapore | 1 | | 1 |
| Somalia | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| South Africa | 2 | | 2 |
| Sri Lanka | 6 | | 6 |
| Sudan | 3 | | 3 |
| Syria | 3 | | 3 |
| Tibet | 1 | | 1 |
| Turkey | 10 | | 10 |
| Uganda | 3 | | 3 |
| USA | 1 | | 1 |

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|------------|
| Zambia | 1 | | 1 |
| Zimbabwe | 4 | | 4 |
| Unknown | 15 | 1 | 16 |
| Other (Stateless) | | 1 | 1 |
| Totals | 230 | 123 | |
| GRAND TOTAL | | | 353 |

Comment on Table 4:

As shown above RACS provided face-to-face advice to people from over 46 countries of origin.

Table 5 Evening Advice (face-to-face) by Matter Type

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| Pre DIMIA | 54 |
| DIMIA | 25 |
| Post-DIMIA/Pre RRT | 22 |
| RRT | 43 |
| Post RRT | 86 |
| Total | 230 |

Table 6 TPV Legal Project Advice by Matter Type (from 14 October 2003 to 30 June 2004)

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| Pre DIMIA | 4 |
| DIMIA | 81 |
| Post-DIMIA/Pre RRT | 0 |
| RRT | 38 |
| Post RRT | 0 |
| Total | 123 |

Comment on Tables 5 and 6:

These statistics were included to assist RACS in evaluating existing face-to-face advice services.

9. Treasurer's report

The Balance Sheet and Statement of Income and Expenditure as at 30/6/2004 reveal the organisation's financial position has improved over the year under review.

Whilst, Income and Expenditure resulted in a small loss of \$4956 for the year, we had budgeted for a much more substantial loss for the period.

The income base rose by \$48,058. This was the result of increased income from the Detention contract (+\$38,813), Task Forces (+\$9441), Community (+\$10,326) and Donations (+\$19,567). This was offset against Grants (-\$32,865).

Expenditure increased by \$19,207.

Of this figure, \$18,691 related to staff salaries.

RACS has sufficient funds in reserve to maintain the current level of services over the ensuing 12 months provided levels of DIMIA invoicing can be maintained under the new contract. The privacy issues raised in the Audit report comments could affect the overall cash position over the next 12 months, if not satisfactorily resolved with DIMIA.

Sylvia Winton

Treasurer

10. President's Declaration in respect of Fundraising Appeals

I, Alistair Gee, President of Refugee Advice Casework Service (Inc) (RACS) declare that in my opinion:

- a. the accounts give a true and fair view of all income and expenditure of RACS with respect to fundraising appeals;
- b. the provisions of the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and the regulations under that Act and the conditions attached to fundraise have been complied with; and
- c. the internal controls exercised by RACS are appropriate and effective in accounting for all income received.

.....

Alistair Gee
President

Dated.....

11. Statement of the Members of the Management Committee

The Committee has determined that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the accounts.

In the opinion of the Committee, the accompanying accounts as set out in the attached Statement of Income and Expenditure, Balance Sheet and Notes to the accounts present fairly the financial position of the Refugee Advice and Casework Service (Australia) Inc. as at 30 June 2004 and the results of this Association for the year ended on that date.

On the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Refugee Advice and Casework Service (Australia) Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

.....

Alistair Gee
President

Dated.....