



**ASYLUM SEEKERS  
CENTRE**

**2002  
END OF YEAR  
REPORT**

# ASYLUM SEEKERS CENTRE (INC)



38 Nobbs Street  
Surry Hills NSW 2010  
Tel: (02) 9361 5606

Fax: (02) 9331 6670  
e-mail: [asc\\_inc@bigpond.net.au](mailto:asc_inc@bigpond.net.au)  
ABN: 47 164 509 475

## ASYLUM SEEKERS CENTRE PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

The Asylum Seekers Centre aims to assist asylum seekers regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, sexuality and religion. The Centre is committed to human rights, believing that all people have the same human, social and legal rights.

The Asylum Seekers Centre is first and foremost a referral base and hospitality centre for asylum seekers. It aims to raise awareness of the needs of asylum seekers within the community and offers a variety of services including English classes, health care assistance, a job skills program and other recreational activities that asylum seekers are not able to access in the mainstream social system. The Centre provides access to services and information without prejudice and aims to avoid duplication of any other services.

All services are free and confidential.

*The Asylum Seekers Centre provides services and support to refugee applicants.*  
It is sponsored by the Good Shepherd Sisters and the Mercy Foundation and assisted by other groups and individuals.

## CHAIRPERSONS REPORT 2002

The past year has continued to confront the Asylum Seekers Centre with the ongoing challenge of providing a place of welcome and quality services to asylum seekers. This has been achieved in the face of a Government and a society, which largely fails to comprehend or acknowledge the rights of persons seeking asylum in our country. Add to this the lack of compassion for the suffering of men, women and children who want nothing more than the opportunity to build a new life and to provide for their families in safety and dignity, and the Asylum Seekers Centre stands as a beacon of light and hope in a long, dark tunnel of rejection and suffering.

As anticipated, the burden placed on asylum seekers in the past year has only increased. The current political climate continues to bring a harsh, punitive approach to the issue.

In contrast, the Asylum Seekers Centre is the antipathy of the attitudes and treatment imposed on asylum seekers by the Government. At the Centre there is an awareness that the role of an organisation such as ours is much deeper than that of providing services – important though that is. Embedded in the philosophy and spirit of the Centre is the belief in the right of each person to be treated with dignity and respect. Asylum seekers are people who are entitled to enjoy the whole range of human rights. We respond to this by providing a place of welcome and warm hospitality, respect for each person, support in achieving their rights, compassion in hardship and a place which addresses the human needs of education, health, isolation and safety.

The Board congratulates Sylvia Winton who continues to bring positive and calm leadership to a situation where the daily demands and the depth of hardship experienced by those who find their way to the Centre, can be overwhelming.

The Centre is gifted with staff and volunteers whose professional skills are of the highest level and whose personal integrity and presence enhances the underlying principle of the Centre of respect for all humanity. I cannot emphasise enough how greatly we value the generosity and commitment of our staff.

Members of the Board of Management have again demonstrated commitment to the organisation by giving time out of already extraordinarily demanding schedules. Their expertise and experience in the field provides a confident and strong professional management team to support the work of the Centre.

I acknowledge our donors for their financial support, without which it would be impossible to maintain the Centre. Over and above financial input, our donor groups give considerable support in a variety of ways which we value and appreciate.

The granting of asylum is not a favour to be dispensed at the discretion of those of us who are more fortunate. It is a duty and a responsibility, which calls us to have a vision beyond narrow, nationalistic attitudes. It holds a responsibility to ensure access to all those things which are necessary for the well being of all – including asylum seekers.

The challenge remains for us to welcome and provide for those who enter our door at the Asylum Seekers Centre – and to continue to confront and bring education and advocacy to the fear, suspicion, selfishness and misinformation which places political gain before the needs and human dignity of asylum seekers. The Asylum Seekers Centre remains committed to providing support and services to this group of people in our community who have a right to much more than they currently have access to.

We thank all those who have supported the Asylum Seekers Centre throughout the past year.

**Noelene White**  
Chairperson

## CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

It has been a year of harsh policies, closing borders, demonising of the asylum seeker, rejecting of the 'other', tightening of the definition of a refugee, yet in contrast, the Asylum Seekers Centre has never before had so many members of the community approach us to offer kindness, support and welcome to the asylum seekers who reach our doors. For those employed at the Centre, there is a strong sense of others on the journey with us, accompanying the asylum seekers whom we meet, and for this we are very grateful.

It is a difficult road to prove you are a refugee and for many an impossible one. During the year we worked with many who had been rejected at various stages along the determination process. For some we were able to advocate with success, for others we explored alternative options – other destinations where they might flee to. For some they have reached the end-of-the-line in Australia and leaving is the only option. In professional development, staff explored issues associated with reconciliation – when might it be safe for the asylum seeker to return; what will that take; but also reconciling ourselves to the fact that the refugee system in our country is harsh and punitive.

To the fantastic staff who have listened to stories of torture, cruelty and man's inhumanity to man, and kept going, congratulations and THANK YOU. To the volunteer staff who provide most of the services offered at the Centre, you are inspirational and so supportive. THANK YOU.

A recent decision from the High Court that the Refugee Review Tribunal finding was made with insufficient evidence in two Chinese Indonesian class action cases, gave some hope to many. Perhaps false hope. Such cases must return to the RRT. We have been assisting one man for whom the Court found an error in the Tribunal decision. Back to the RRT, rejected, back to the Court. A win at the Court does not mean success for a refugee. Always the matter must return to the RRT and even then, the Minister for Immigration can overturn a decision. Our man believes he is unsafe to return to Iran, yet in Australia he continues like many others with no permission to work, no access to Medicare, no access to welfare support. Difficult for anyone to retain dignity and not give up under such circumstances.

We meet so many with no means of support. No access to welfare and even for those who do eventually get permission to work, often they lack the English language skills to compete in the employment market, yet employment is their only means of survival. This year we increased the amount allocated for emergency assistance – travel, food, accommodation and pharmacy. **We desperately seek funding to continue this humanitarian response. Refer to back page of this report, a tax deduction is available.**

Volunteers were horrified to learn that many asylum seekers survive in our community with one or if lucky, perhaps two meals a day. In response, a kind group of volunteers now offer lunch at the Centre on several days each week.

Advocacy is a major aspect of the work done at the Centre. When asylum seekers try to enrol their children into schools they are told they must pay \$4,000 per child per year. Knowing this to be impossible, they keep the children at home. We have assisted many families in this regard, but in the worst case, a child missed school for 10 months before hearing about the Centre. Through concerted advocacy with the Education Department and Department of Immigration, we can in some circumstances get this fee waived. It has been a long, hard process, but we are grateful that these Departments have listened to our pleas.

We are now at the three year mark for many who were granted a temporary protection visa when released from detention. Many of these people have hung on tenaciously to

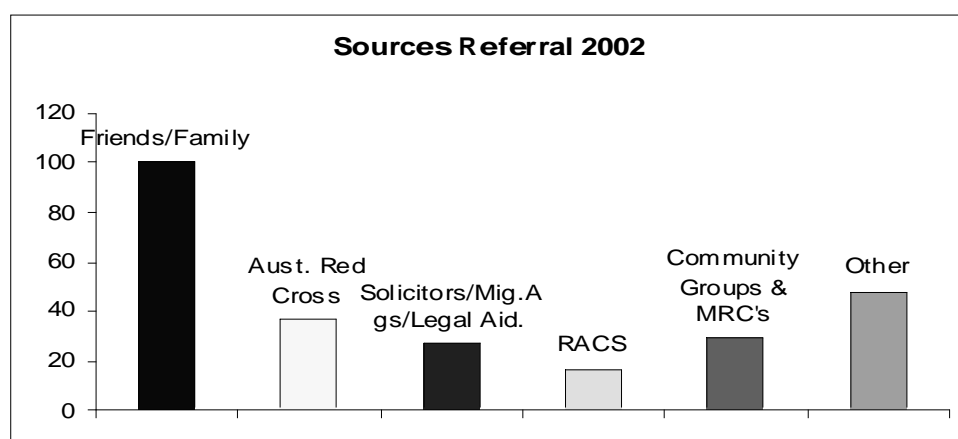
the hope that their family might join them if they are granted refugee status. The policy is just being tested. Many have lived the three years in fear here in Australia. Fear to speak out about the conditions of their visa or of what they experienced in detention. They believed this might result in their not being accepted as a refugee here. I recall asking one man from Iraq to speak at a forum and he replied, "I am just learning what it is like to live in a democratic country. In my country you know exactly what will happen to you if you speak out—you are told. Here you are not told, but other punishments occur. My family is not safe and I must not speak out for fear that we will never be reunited." How these folk will ever rebuild their lives is to be tested. Will they ever have the strong loyalty to Australia that earlier generations of refugees had? I doubt it. As I heard recently, asylum seekers are people like you and like me. They hope, they bleed, they cry.

The Asylum Seekers Centre continues to be an oasis for many people, a welcoming place in a largely unwelcoming country, a safe place for people who have fled situations of great danger. Some refer to the Centre as their home – they have no family and home left. These people teach me about courage, determination, humility and survival. Daily my life is enriched by my work and people who attend the Centre.

**Sylvia Winton**  
Co-ordinator

**Table 1. Number and gender of new clients**

2001/2002	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Female	8	13	7	10	9	4	13	8	2	13	9	4	100
Male	21	18	9	16	14	14	9	13	11	16	7	10	158
Total	29	31	16	26	23	18	22	21	13	29	16	14	258



### What attracts clients to the Centre

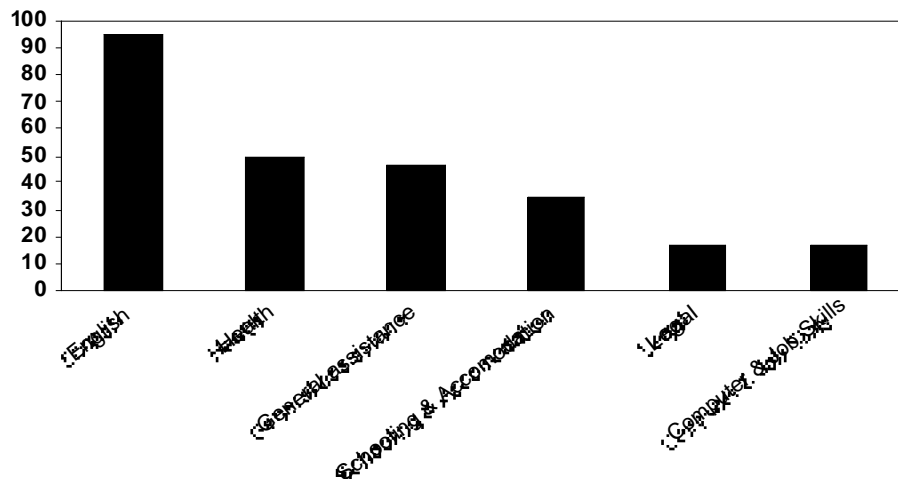
Whatever it is that attracts asylum seekers to the Centre, the initial interview which we have with all new clients provides an opportunity to assess a range of needs, to make appropriate referrals for legal, medical and welfare assistance, and to welcome new people to the Centre. (see table 3 & 4 page 14)

This year these initial interviews were conducted by salaried staff members, either myself (as Co-ordinator), Maree Delaney (Assistant Co-ordinator), Jenny Marsh (Caseworker). Karen Aldis

(Health Care Co-ordinator) and her predecessor, Denise Suplina undertook the complex and demanding work of finding appropriate health care following the initial interviews. Sr Ruth Boland, continues to offer support several isolated families in their homes. In response to the knowledge that many asylum seekers do not have two or three meals each day, Sr Mary Baker, Janelle Kidman, Annette Bennett, Denise Suplina, Judith and Jock Keene have kindly provided lunches as part of our hospitality.

We also had the assistance of 73 volunteers who worked at the Centre, with around 25 volunteers actively involved at any one time. (See page 11 for a full list of people who worked at the Centre in 2002.)

### Reasons for Referral 2002



### Student Placements

Kent Rosenthal, a Jesuit Novice, produced a delightful publication of stories about the lives of the folk he met during his placement. Katherine Hoeflich, from America, studying at Australian Catholic University, assisted with the first ASC Newsletter. Fiona Goodwin a social work student, assisted with employment placement. Students from Riverview College, St Leo's College and Brigidine College also spent time in the Centre.

Each student on placement brings their life experience, their training and their unique strengths. They enrich our work at the Centre

### Staff

The work of salaried staff and the generosity of skilled volunteers enabled us to offer clients the opportunity to participate in a range of programs and activities: an English Program, a Health Care Program, a Job Search Skills Program, a Refugee Applicants Development Program, "Open Forum" sessions, monthly bus trips as well as special events.

We farewelled Denise Suplina after 12 months as Health Care Co-ordinator and we appreciate Denise's ongoing involvement and kindness in a volunteer capacity. We welcomed Karen Aldis as Health Care Co-ordinator early in 2002. She brings an understanding of community health care and strong advocacy skills to the position. Until further study called, Rosemary Chopra filled the position of Administrative Assistant. Jenny Cornish is now with us 2 days each week in this role. She brings a calmness to her work and kindly assists in so many ways. A special thank you to Mark Raper who willingly took the Co-ordinator position for six weeks during my leave.

That first point of welcome to asylum seekers has been provided this year by Vahideh Aboukazemi, Kath Clune, Carol Brunton and Sheila Newman.

Sadly we farewelled Michael Guymmer as Hon Bookkeeper. We especially thank him for his attention to detail and for establishing a sound financial reporting system in the Centre's first year as an

incorporated organization. Kindly, Martyn Green has taken on the role of Hon Bookkeeper and we welcome him.

Monthly, professional development has been provided to salaried staff by Melinda Austen, through the generosity of STARTTS. We thank Melinda for her gentleness and insight. We also thank STARTTS for assisting the Centre to move to a computerised client database.

It is only through the kindness of all staff at the Centre that we continue to provide an environment of welcome and hospitality where asylum seekers are treated with respect. The work undertaken would not be possible without the support of each staff member, each volunteer and each donor. *Sincerely, thank you.* (See page 11 for a full list of people who worked at the Centre in 2002.)

### **Consultants**

Thank you to our Public Officer and consultant solicitor John Balazs of Baker and McKenzie, Solicitors, to Chris Betar of Whitehead, Dingly and Betar for his accounting expertise and support, to Emma Trassari for Audit undertaken last year and more recently to Darrel Causbrook of Causebrook and Associates for agreeing to take on the role of Hon. Auditor for this year. Thank you also to Jesuit Refugee Service, for payroll services to the Centre and for the partnership they provide.

The Management Committee are like consultants, always available when wisdom and guidance is needed, each member of the Committee provides expertise, wisdom, support and encouragement. A very sincere thank you. (see page 10 for list of consultants and committee)

### **Patron**

We wish to thank Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC, Governor of NSW, for her patronage of the Centre and we look forward to inviting her to see first hand the work we do.

### **Funding**

Funding is entirely from the non-government sector and is always uncertain. We seek the stability that committed funding for a number of years can provide. The Centre has status as a registered charity and gifts of \$2 and over are tax deductible.

A special thank you to Geoff Stumbles, Maya Cranitch and Maryanne Pidcock who formed a funding committee and have supported me in this aspect of work. We wish Maryanne well in her move to the far north and miss her greatly.

We are especially grateful to our major sponsors, The Good Shepherd Sisters and the Mercy Foundation, both of whom have renewed their support. Mercy Foundation funding is until June 2003 and under review. We have appreciated the security that their three year commitment to fund has provided.

Also a special thank you to the Presentation Sisters of Wagga Wagga, St Canices' Church Kings Cross, St Mary's School Erskineville, The Australian Ursulines, the Australian Catholic University, the Sisters of St Joseph, the Sisters of Mercy, Wilcannia-Forbes, the National Council of Churches, Brown Nurses, the Society of Friends.

This year, several groups decided to support the Centre in ways we have not experienced before: an opening night of a play (Blind City); a large event staged at the Sydney Town Hall (Show Mercy); an evening of music (Act Now For Refugees); Jews for Ethnic Tolerance have donated a large number of telephone cards. For the generous one-off donations that have occurred in this financial period, we are also most grateful. (see pages 12 & 13 for a full list of supporters)

### **English Program**

The English Program in 2002 consisted of seven six-week sessions, including one Language-in-Action Program. Once again, we offered four levels of English, allowing us to place clients in classes at appropriate levels, whether they had just a few words of English (Introductory), could converse

easily in English (Advanced), or as with most who come to the Centre, had English skills somewhere in between (Beginners or Intermediate). The large staff of volunteer ESL teachers, would each teach one two hour session each week, however several teachers taught on more than one occasion in the week. In the course of the year, we had 32 different ESL teachers assist at the Centre.

Teacher's meetings and staff development seminars are an important aspect of the English program and are held in the non-teaching weeks. Our thanks to Maya Cranitch from Australian Catholic University (ACU) for her dedication and professional input to these sessions. Those students who attended for twenty or more hours in a session received certificates recognising their achievement. Many students were unable to attend regularly due to transport costs or other priorities, such as the need to find work.

The Language-in-Action Program in November/December once again focused on the themes of summer, beaches, holidays, cultural and religious festivals, Christmas, Australian history and indigenous Australians. This Program incorporated excursions to the State Library and the Museum and the Art Gallery.

English Conversation classes conducted by Laura Mooney are been well received and provided an alternative way of learning as well as being fun.

Lisa O'Neill continues in the role of English Co-ordinator in 2002. We are very grateful to Lisa who has been at the Centre since it opened in 1993, and to all our ESL teachers. We are also grateful to Valerie Hoogstad and Maya Cranitch from the Centre for Communication Studies at the North Sydney campus of ACU for their continued support of the English Program.

### **Health Care Program**

As in previous years, the health care program is a major part of our work. We welcomed Karen Aldis to the Health Care Co-ordinator role in January 2002 and sadly farewelled Denise Suplina. A large aspect of the program is advocacy and we thank the health care professionals who have responded to our requests to waive fees. During this year 20 % of clients identified health care as the reason for turning to the Centre an increase from 16% last year. (see table 8 page 17 health referrals)

We particularly thank Dr Mark Harris, medical practitioner and Kerry McCouat, physiotherapist, for the weekly sessions they hold at the Centre. Physiotherapy and massage relieve muscular skeletal pain and injury, but can also improve body image that can be distorted by torture experiences.

Most weeks we offered health care sessions on Tuesdays after English classes. These sessions, made possible by the assistance of volunteers included back clinic, yoga sessions, men's health and women's health talks and relaxation. Thank you to staff from the Mater Hospital, educators from Livingstone Road Sexual Health Centre, Helen Wilmore, nurse educator, Jayatma and Darma, yoga. (see table 2 below)

We have again assisted several pregnant women without access to Medicare this year.

Thank you to the Mater Hospital, to Margaret Benjafield and Rhonda Granger, for answering our pleas, and to the Mercy Foundation for the continued involvement in our health care program.

Thank you also to the Sisters of Charity, and to Margaret Campbell and staff at St Vincent's Private Hospital for their support.

Thank you to Dr John Southwick and Dr Watson for kindly assisting with dental care.

Thank you to the University of NSW Student Eye Clinic for examinations, and on occasions glasses prescribed. This year 25 people have been referred to this service.

We continue to meet many asylum seekers without Medicare cover and no means to pay for health care or prescriptions. The greatest cost associated with the health program is providing funds to fill a prescription. We seek sponsorship for this aspect of Centre work.

**Table 2 Details of Health Care Seminars & Classes**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>No. of clients</b>
July	Going to Hospital In Australia	8
September	Men's Health Talk	7
October	Women's Health	5
April	Back Care	10
May	Dental Care	15
June	Men's Health Talk	12
July-June	Yoga 37 classes	82

### **Job Search Skills Program**

Designed to assist those asylum seekers who have permission to work in their efforts to find employment. Classes focus on job-seeking skills, such as where and how to look for jobs, how to contact possible employers, resumé preparation, writing application letters, phoning employers and presenting well in job interviews.

Jean Johns and Anthony Curtin assisted by Louise Nash presented 18 job search skills classes through the year. Fiona Goodwin joined them in assisting people to find work. (see details page 16)

Asylum seekers find the employment process extremely difficult. Many have not undergone the interview process in their own countries, and are therefore less skilled in 'selling themselves' than other applicants for the same jobs. For many, the stress of a job interview causes a decline in the quality of their use of English in the interview, and some have little English to start with.

In addition to running these classes 19 clients were placed directly in employment; 2 in training; intensive, practical job search assistance was provided to 36 clients seeking employment. In many of these cases the asylum seekers were successful in finding employment.

Asylum seekers have a compelling need to work; for many it is their only means of income. Most of those assisted by the Centre have proved to be extremely loyal employees and very grateful for the opportunity to work.

We are keen to have a range of employers who will call the Centre when they want employees.

### **Refugee Applicants Development Program**

The Refugee Applicants Development Program offers activities that help asylum seekers grow in self-confidence and engage in enjoyable and creative activities. (see table 7 page 16)

### **Computer and typing skills**

In March this year we sadly farewelled George Winston after five years in the position of computer co-ordinator. George established the computer lab and set the grounding for others to follow. Other teachers have included Len Berlin and Erik Bachmann, Dianne Watts, and more recently Mike Cleary and Warwick Johnston. There were 66 two-hour classes held in computer and typing, assisting an average of 6 students. Asylum seekers also made good use of the 8 donated computers at other times.

Through the connection of internet to one computer in the lab, students can research their refugee case, search for work, and in some circumstances, communicate with friends and family. As this facility is in constant demand, we hope to extend internet access to other computers this year and thereby make it available to more students - program costs will increase significantly.

Neil Every has provided invaluable technical assistance to the Centre and has facilitated the delivery of the internet service to asylum seekers as well as ensuring security to sensitive data.

## **“Open Forum” meetings**

During the teaching sessions, we regularly hold “Open Forum” meetings at the Centre. These open meetings provide an occasion when asylum seekers can help evaluate the Centre’s programs, plan future activities, share information and talk about any matters of interest or concern. In 2002, there were 32 “Open Forum” meetings with an average of 14 participants.

On two occasions lawyers attended "Open Forum" to explain the refugee process, to tell how to access library/internet information to prepare their refugee case and to answer questions. This was especially valuable when so many asylum seekers do not have legal assistance in applying for protection. These occasions also served as an opportunity for volunteer staff to attend and gain a deeper understanding of the asylum seeker process.

## **Bus trips**

Monthly bus trips to places of interest were once again a popular social activity run by the Centre. These trips provided asylum seekers with welcome respite from daily worries, a time of relaxation and socialisation. Destinations included Taronga Zoo with 25 tickets kindly donated, Berrima, the Bicentennial Park at Homebush, Clontarf Beach, Blue Mountains, Woollongong, Cronulla and Canberra. These outings were possible thanks to St Mary’s School, Erskineville, who provided a twenty-seat bus, to St Canice’s Church, Kings Cross, who covered the costs of fuel and supplies and to Maree Delaney, Mary Baker and Ken Hastie our bus drivers.

## **Special events**

The community legal service Refugee Advice and Casework Service (RACS) and Legal Aid Commission attended the Centre on different occasions to explain the refugee process and how the asylum seeker might research their case. Many clients do not have legal assistance and must prepare themselves. Cao Van Nguyen accompanied students to the State Library to show how to access material that may assist in the preparation of their case, and more recently Suede Stanton assists with this in the Centre. Bini Malcolm presented a session on life in Iran and Afghanistan prior to the war. Her photos were an opportunity for many clients to remember and to talk about their home countries.

Once again our Christmas Party attracted many present and past clients, friends and supporters to the Centre for a wonderful gathering with dancing, music, delicious food and the sharing of presents. To Maree Whybourne and the kind folk who donate Christmas presents that make the day special for the children, thank you. Thank you also to Ken Hastie, Red Cross for his part in making this a successful occasion.

## **Research and advocacy**

The Asylum Seekers Centre works very closely with other organisations to foster co-ordinated casework and concerted advocacy. This year we presented a submission to the HREOC Inquiry into Children in Detention; made a submission when the UN Committee inspected Detention Centres in Australia and have provided material and first hand information to other researchers on the issues of asylum seekers.

The Centre continues to participate in the Asylum Seekers Interagency which brings together representatives from a wide range of agencies and has three working groups, one focused on detention issues, one on legal issues and one on housing and welfare issues. The Centre is represented at the New South Wales Asylum Seeker and Refugee Forum (NASRF), Refugee Review Tribunal Community Liaison Committee, Refugee and Displaced Persons Committee of the National Council of Churches, TPV Legal Working Group, TPV Support Group, as well as other interagency meetings.

Requests from schools and community, for Centre staff to present at public forums on asylum seeker issues have increased. Public education is an important aspect of our work. Those agencies that receive government funding are constrained from speaking on such matters.

## **Gaps in service**

Pastoral home visits and support to those families who cannot access the Centre, continue as a concern especially where young children are involved; as is full funding of pharmaceuticals, especially to those without permission to work. Funding travel fares for the isolated to access the Centre and be supported is very expensive and rarely able to be offered.

To provide for the gaps in service we seek further funding. To have several individuals or organisations that commit financial assistance for three years would ensure that the work of the Centre can be carried on with some stability.

**Sylvia Winton**  
**Co-ordinator**

**ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE OF THE ASYLUM SEEKERS CENTRE INC.**

The Asylum Seekers Centre is Incorporated in NSW. The Co-ordinator reports to the Management Committee.

**Committee Members in 2002**

Ms Maya Cranitch  
Mr Lachlan Murdoch  
Ms Margaret Piper  
Sr Noelene White, RGS (Chairperson)

Sr Gabriella Gresz, RSM (Secretary)  
Fr Cao Van Nguyen, SJ  
Ms Geraldine Read (Treasurer)

**Consultants in 2002**

Hon. Public Officer  
Hon. Accounting Consultant  
Hon. Auditor

Mr John Balazs  
Baker & McKenzie, Solicitors  
Mr Chris Betar  
Whitehead, Dingly & Betar, Accountants  
Mr Darrel Causbrook  
Causbrook & Associates

**STAFF AT THE ASYLUM SEEKERS CENTRE IN 2002****Salaried Staff**

Co-ordinator	Ms Sylvia Winton
Assistant Co-ordinator (3 days a week)	Ms Maree Delaney
Health Care Co-ordinator (2 days a week)	Ms Denise Suplina, Ms Karen Aldis
Caseworker	Ms Jenny Marsh
Admin. Assistant (2 days a week)	Ms Rosemary Chopra, Ms Jenny Cornish

**Volunteer Staff**

Office Assistant	Ms Vahideh Aboukazemi	Excursions/ESL support	Ms Estelle Adamek
ESL Teacher	Mr José de Almada	ESL Teacher/Office Asst	Sr Celine Auton
Computer Skills	Mr Erik Bachmann	Pastoral Support/Bus Trips	Sr Mary Baker
ESL Teacher	Sr Anne Banfield	Computer Skills	Mr Len Berlin
ESL Teacher	Ms Alex Bligh	Pastoral Support	Sr Ruth Boland
ESL Teacher	Ms Janine Bow	ESL Teacher	Ms Miggs Brodie
Office Assistant	Ms Carol Brunton	ESL Teacher	Mr Peter Butler
ESL Teacher	Sr Maura Campbell	Support/Library visits	Fr Nguyen Van Cao
ESL Teacher	Mr Geoff Cartwright	Computer Teacher	Mr Mike Cleary
Office Asst/ESL Teacher	Sr Kath Clune	ESL Teacher	Ms Jennifer Crego
Job Skills Teacher	Mr Anthony Curtin	Yoga	Darma
Compliance Advice	Ms Anna Delahunty	ESL Teacher	Ms Judy Diamond
ESL Teacher	Mr Brendan Doyle	ESL Teacher	Ms Margaret Drew
Computer Tech Support	Mr Neil Every	ESL Teacher	Sr Therese Gaudry
Student	Ms Fiona Goodwin	Hon Accountant	Mr Martyn Green
Bookkeeper	Mr Michael Guymer	ESL Teacher	Ms Virginia Harper
Doctor	Prof Mark Harris	Researcher	Ms Margaret
Hetherton		Computer Teacher	Mr Warwick
Student	Ms Katherine Hoeflich		
Johnston			
Job Skills/Employment	Ms Jean Johns	ESL Teacher	Sr Rita Johnston
Hospitality	Ms Judith Keene	Hospitality	Mr Jock Keene
ESL Teacher	Fr Peter Kelly	Hospitality/Lunch/ESL	Ms Janelle Kidman
ESL Teacher	Mr Nick Korner	ESL Teacher	Ms Yvonne Kosky
Hospitality/ESL support		Sr Madeline Lee	Physiotherapist
Ms Kerry McCouat			
ESL Teacher	Ms Elaine McLaughlan	ESL Teacher	Ms Laura Mooney
ESL Teacher	Ms Bini Malcolm	ESL Teacher	Ms Grace Musumici
Job Skills Teacher	Ms Louise Nash	ESL Support	Mr David Nolan
ESL Teacher	Sr Coleen O'Brien	English Co-ord/ESL	Ms Lisa O'Neill
ESL Teacher	Ms Judi Palmer	Fundraising Support	Ms Maryanne
Pidcock			
Data Entry/Archivist	Sr Margaret Press	Compliance Advice	Ms Rasika
Ramburuth			
Locum Co-ordinator	Fr Mark Raper	Health Care/Interpreter	Ms Nieves Rivera
ESL Teacher	Ms Zoe Robb (dec)	ESL Teacher	Ms Pat Rolls
Jesuit Novice	Mr Kent Rosenthal	Yoga Teacher	Jayatma Saraswati
ESL Teacher	Ms Claire Saunders	Web Page Design	Ms Rebecca Scott
Art	Ms Pauline Sedgewick	ESL Teacher	Ms Valerie St John

Legal/Country Research Mr Geoff Stumbles		Ms Suede Stanton	General Assistant
Office Assistant	Ms Sheila Truswell Newman	ESL Teacher	Mr Steven Thurlow
Health Interpreter Gelder	Mr Max Van Gelder	Hospitality/support	Ms Carol Van
Job Skills Assist	Ms Dianne Watts	ESL Teacher	Ms Tanya Wood
Computer Skills	Mr George Winston	ESL Teacher	Mr Jules Wynhausen

## LIST OF SUPPORTERS DURING 2001/2002

The Asylum Seekers Centre receives no government funding. We rely entirely on the generosity of sponsoring organizations and those groups and individuals who donate money, equipment or services. We gratefully acknowledge the support received from the following organizations and individuals in 2002.

### Major Sponsors

Good Shepherd Sisters

Mercy Foundation

### Other Sponsors

Australian Catholic University  
 Australian Ursulines  
 Jesuit Refugee Service, Australia  
 St Canice's Church, Kings Cross  
 Sisters of Charity, Australia

St Mary's School, Erskineville  
 Sisters of St Joseph  
 Perthville Josephites  
 Presentation Sisters

### Other Sponsors and Donors

Act Now For Refugees  
 Mr & Mrs Akhund  
 Dr Faris Al'Shammaa  
 AMES Burwood  
 Mr Nick Armitage  
 Mr William Ashton  
 Australian Centre for Languages  
 Sr Antonette Baldwin  
 Mr & Mrs Barmani  
 Sr Rita Boote  
 Dr Boustred  
 Mr Ronald James Boys  
 Mrs Ros Bradley  
 Ms G.M. Breen  
 Sr Madeline Breen RSJ  
 Dr Brenner  
 Brigidine College, St Ives  
 Brigidine Sisters  
 Mr Peter Butler  
 Mr & Mrs Byrne  
 Mrs Caine  
 Dr Campbell  
 Ms Noel Carpenter  
 Catholic Women's League  
 Catholics in Coalition for Justice & Peace  
 Ms Mary Cavanagh  
 Centacare  
 Dr Chang  
 Ms Judy Chaplin  
 Ms Beverley Charker  
 Christian Brothers College, Burwood  
 Mrs E.A. Clarke  
 Dr Coffey  
 Dr Courtenay  
 Mr Anthony Curtin  
 Mrs Barbara Darmanin  
 Dr Delaney  
 Ms Laura Doherty  
 Dominican Sisters of Malta

Ms Michele Morgan  
 Ms Rosemary Morrow  
 Dr Munz  
 Rev. R. Murphy  
 Ms Joan Nagle  
 Ms Louise Nash  
 National Council of Churches of Australia  
 Mr Nicholas Ngui  
 Ms Gerri Nicholas  
 The Nolan Family  
 Ms Ruth Norton  
 NSW Christian Life Centre, Wahroonga  
 NSW Refugee Health Service  
 Mr & Mrs O'Brien  
 Ophthalmology Clinic University of NSW  
 Ms Stella O'Riordan  
 Dr Michael O'Sullivan  
 Our Lady's Nurses of the Poor  
 Our Lady of Mount Carmel Waterloo  
 Mr Brian Page  
 Ms Meredith Park  
 P.W. Parry  
 Dr Patel  
 Ms C.R. Peacock  
 Mr Richard Pearse  
 Mrs Catherine Phillips  
 Mr Don Plimer  
 Ms M. Power  
 Quicken, Quickbooks PRO  
 Dr Raman  
 Ms Helen Read  
 Religious of the Sacred Heart, Karlaminda  
 Religious Society of Friends  
 Mr & Mrs Ricardo-Eurdice Bermudez  
 Mr Lionel Robberds  
 Dr K. Ruben  
 Mr Yusuff Rumjahn  
 Mr G.J. Russell  
 Dr Edward Ryan

Douglass Hanly Moir Pathology

Mr D. Schlosser

Mr Martin Doyle  
 Ms Nicole Dwight  
 Dr Eisenberg  
 K.L. Ferguson  
 Food Share Australia  
 Mr & Mrs Fox  
 Franciscan Missionaries of Mary  
 Dr Gallagher  
 Ms Margaret Gallagher  
 Mr Tim Galvin  
 Ms A.E. Gipps  
 Good Shepherd Sisters, Carnegie  
 Fr. Cyril Hally  
 Siobhan Hannan  
 Haymarket Foundation  
 Herbal Creations  
 Ms Fleur Herscovitch  
 Ms Margaret Hetheron  
 Mrs Rosemary Holden  
 Hunter Valley Branch, AASW  
 Insearch, UTS  
 Dr Jeroschenko  
 Jews for Ethnic Tolerance  
 Ms Valerie Joy  
 Kincoppal School, Rose Bay  
 Mr Denis Klein  
 Ms Margaret Knowlden  
 Sr Elizabeth Landon  
 Lane Cove Women's Action & Info. Group  
 Sr Madeline Lee RGS  
 Ms Jennifer Lewis  
 Liverpool Hospital Midwives Clinic  
 Livingstone Road Sexual Health Centre  
 Loreto Community, Normanhurst  
 Ms Angela Lynch  
 Sr Pat Lynch RSM  
 Mr Jason Ma  
 Dr Macrossan  
 Mrs Patricia Maquire  
 Marist Sisters  
 Mr & Mrs Marsh  
 Mater Hospital, Staff  
 Mater Radiology  
 Mrs Dot McColl  
 Mr Kevin McCormack  
 Ms Kerry McCouat  
 Mr Reay McGuinness  
 Ms Betty McMahan  
 Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College

Servants of the Blessed Sacrament, Kirrawee  
 Show Mercy Organisers  
 Ms Diane Shteinman  
 Dr D Silove  
 Ms Virginia Simpson-Young  
 Sisters of Mercy, Willcania Forbes  
 Sisters of St Joseph, Goulburn  
 Ms Carol Smith  
 Mr Dick Smith  
 Dr Jeremy Smith  
 Sr Patty Snudden RSJ  
 Social Justice Renewal Group, CEO Parra.  
 Mr Ray Solness  
 Dr John Southwick  
 STARTTS  
 St Anthony Parish, Terrey Hills  
 St Catherine's Dominican Convent  
 St Ignatius College, Riverview  
 Mrs Valerie St John  
 St Joseph's Catholic College, Gosford  
 St Mary's Roman Catholic Parish Casino  
 St Monica's Primary, North Parramatta  
 St Vincent's College, Darlinghurst  
 St Vincent de Paul, Eastern Suburbs  
 St Vincent's Hospital  
 Mr Alexander Francis Stewart  
 Summer Hill Social Justice Group  
 Ms Melissa Sweet  
 Sydney Sexual Health Centre  
 Dr Thomas  
 Ms Elizabeth Tooher  
 Dr Tran  
 Transcultural Mental Health Centre  
 UNHCR  
 United Dental Hospital, Dr Jacobi  
 University of Western Sydney Paediatric Podiatry  
 Mr Bill Vickers  
 Dr Watson  
 Mr Peter Walker  
 Ms Fran Waugh  
 Westmead Dental Clinic  
 Mr & Mrs Weyland  
 Mr Stephen Why  
 Mr Andrew Wilmot  
 Ms Helen Wilmore  
 Wraps With Love  
 Wyeth Australia Pty Ltd





Ghana						1						1
Guinea						1						1
Kenya	2	1			2						2	7
Libya								3	1			4
Mauritania								1				1
Morocco			1									1
Nigeria	1	1	1									3
Papua New Guinea				1								1
Rwanda		1					1		1			3
Senegal					1						1	2
Somalia						1						1
Sudan										2		2
Tanzania	1											1
Tunisia				2								2
Zimbabwe		2						2	2	1		7
<b>Latin America</b>												
Brazil				2		2						4
Chile	1			1				1				3
Colombia	1	4	1				2	2	1	1	3	15
Peru			1		2		4			1		8
Uruguay											1	1
<b>Total</b>												<b>258</b>

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**JOB SEARCH SKILLS PROGRAM STATISTICS 2001/2002**

No. of clients placed directly in employment: 19  
 No. of clients placed in employment training or volunteer work: 5  
 No. of clients given intensive assistance in seeking employment: 44

**Table 6 Job Search Skills classes**

No. of classes	No. of hours per class	Average no. of participants
18	1.5	8

**REFUGEE APPLICANTS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

**Table 7 Refugee Applicants Development Program classes**

Classes	No. of classes	No. of hours per class	Average no. of participants
Art	18	1.5	2
Conversation	25	1	7
Computer and typing skills	37	1.5	5
Writers Workshop	3	1.5	16

**HEALTH CARE PROGRAM STATISTICS 2001/2**

Total number of medical examinations by Dr Mark Harris

93

**Table 8. Referrals to health care professionals**

<b>Referrals to:</b>	<b>No. of clients</b>
<b>DENTAL CARE</b>	
United Dental Hospital	15
Westmead Dental Hospital	12
Private Dental Care	6
<b>GENERAL PRACTITIONERS</b>	23
<b>MEDICAL SPECIALISTS</b>	
Anaesthetist	1
ENT Surgeon	1
Nuclear Medicine	1
Obstetrician/Gynaecologist	2
Pathologist	42
Radiologist	31
<b>MENTAL HEALTH CARE</b>	
Centacare	1
Community Mental Health Centres	3
Psychiatrist	2
STARTTS	8
Transcultural Mental Health Centre	11
<b>OPHTHALMOLOGY</b>	
Ophthalmology Clinic, Uni. of NSW	25
Ophthalmologist	1
Ophthalmology Clinic POW Hospital	12
Sydney Eye Hospital	1
<b>PREGNANCY CARE</b>	5
<b>PHYSIOTHERAPY</b>	84
<b>PODIATRY</b>	1
<b>SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC</b>	1

**ASC Staff 2002**

<b>Co-ordinator:</b>	<b>Sylvia Winton</b>
<b>Assistant Co-ordinator :</b>	<b>Maree Delaney</b>
<b>Caseworker</b>	<b>Jenny Marsh</b>
<b>Health Care Worker:</b>	<b>Karen Aldis</b>
<b>Administration Assistant:</b>	<b>Jennifer Cornish</b>



***PLEASE HELP US  
REMAIN OPEN***

**I would like to make a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
to enable the Asylum Seekers Centre to continue its work.**

**Mr.**       **Mrs.**       **Ms.**       **Other**

**Surname:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Send your donation to:**  
**The Co-ordinator**  
**The Asylum Seekers Centre**  
**38 Nobbs Street**  
**Surry Hills 2010**  
**asc\_inc@bigpond.net.au**

Gifts \$2.00 and over are allowable as income tax deductions.