

General Manager's Report 2019

We are very proud and humbled to serve our clients, the Asylum Seekers and Convention Refugees in New Zealand. It must be one of the hardest things to leave your home, and all you know, to seek a somewhere safe for yourself, and hopefully your family.

We see daily the struggles our clients go through, from finding somewhere to stay, to opening a bank account, to dealing with lawyers and the claim process and a whole new society and way of doing things.

The journey of an Asylum Seeker is very individual. It can vary wildly from a 3 month wait till success with plenty of family support and a job, to a 12 year journey that is still not completed. This is why we have a unique role to play as we see all the different types of journeys people go through. We need to stand up more and be the voice for Asylum Seekers in New Zealand. Asylum Seekers all have different needs and there is no better organization than ours to understand this, and articulate it.

In Freyja, Bella and May we have an incredible team of hardworking, dedicated workers delivering above and beyond in serving our clients. The work they do is absolutely vital for our clients, but it is only scratching the surface of the need. We need more support for Asylum Seekers in New Zealand.

Asylum Claims are at their highest since 2003/2004 and are climbing further. This is putting extra strain on lawyers and agencies when there is little to no capacity.

Successes we have had in the last year;

- Started Client Advisory Group made up solely of Asylum Seekers
- Employed first staff member with lived experience
- Increased hours of staffing for client services by 40 per week
- Rented house to house 6 more clients, taking the number of beds offered by us to 33
- Secured additional grant funding so we will break even for next 12 months
- Help secure the release of 4 Asylum Seekers from Mt Eden Jail to our Hostel

Outlook 2019-2020

We will concentrate on the following things;

- Advocating for stopping detention at Mt Eden Jail
- Work visas for all Asylum Seekers, and allowance scheme for all Asylum Seekers in the legal process of having their claim assessed while not having a visa
- Increased of ex-detainee's allowance from \$120 a week to \$218 a week
- Starting Social Enterprise home maintenance company to increase work opportunities and income

Acknowledgements

Tracy has thanked our very important funders in her Treasurers report. We are also very grateful to Red Cross, Refugees as Survivors, Mixit and English Language Partners for their work with Asylum Seekers and Convention Refugees. Thank you to all the lawyers who are doing their best for our clients in very busy times.

And thank you to all our donors and supporters. Without your support we would not be able to do our mahi.

Tim Maurice General Manager 10 October 2019