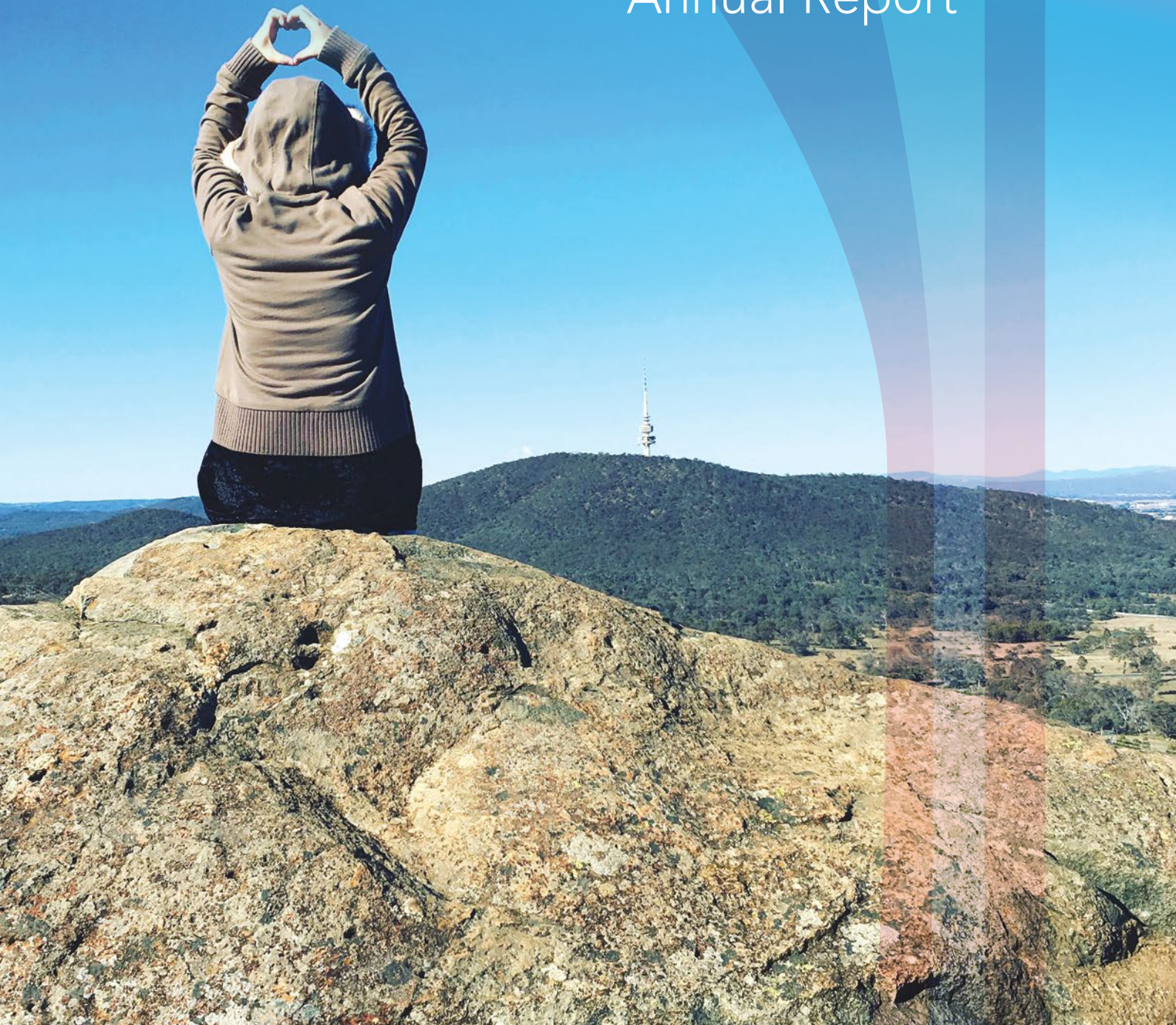


Companion House

2016 – 17
Annual Report



Mission

Companion House is a non government community based organisation. We work with adults and children who have sought safety in Australia from persecution, torture and war related trauma. We believe that people who have survived torture, trauma and human rights violations should have access to services that respect, empower and promote recovery.

PRINCIPLES OF SERVICE

- 1 We acknowledge and respect the strength and resourcefulness of survivors of the refugee experience.
- 2 We respect and respond to diverse needs including those determined by culture, religion, ethnicity, gender and sexuality.
- 3 We promote client independence, self-determination and informed choice.
- 4 Our services are based on a holistic approach to health care.
- 5 We are committed to the confidentiality of all client information.
- 6 We work in strong partnerships with government and non-government agencies and individuals to ensure health care and other service systems and communities are accessible and sensitive to the needs of survivors of torture and trauma.
- 7 Our services are open and accountable to feedback and suggestions from clients and the community.
- 8 We promote and preserve human rights.
- 9 We as staff support each other in our work.

Patrons, Board, Staff and Funding

PATRONS

Justice Elizabeth Evatt AO
Professor William Maley AM

BOARD

Chairperson

Kim Ryan

Secretary

Ibolya Losoncz (until 12.10.16), Veronica Blanpain (after 12.10.16)

Treasurer

Rahul Verma

Members

Kylie Woodward, Karen Middleton, Ibolya Losoncz,
Julian Cribb (until 19.4.17), Toni Matulik (until 12.10.16)

STAFF

Director – Kathy Ragless

Operations Manager – Jeannie McLellan

Counselling Team:

Team Leader – Deborah Nelson

Counsellor – Children – Sam Storey

Counsellors – Elizabeth Price, Ina Toumoua, Brenda Martin,

Vaneitha Balakrishnan, Shahzad Shafqat

Caseworker – Mutsumi Sakaguchi

Complementary Therapy – Rosemary Taylor, Patricia Jones

Community Development and Training Team:

Team Leader – Glenn Flanagan

Project Officers – Hongsar Channaibanya, Sandra Lloyd, Tytti Makinen,

Velupillai Ariyaratnam Balasanthira, Mustafa Ehsan, Andrew Sein

MEDICAL TEAM

Team Leader – Lisa Clements

Practice Nurses – Tytti Makinen, Megan Enright

Medical Coordinator – Silvia Salas Meyer

Support staff – Andrew Sein and Pam Mitchell

Clinical Director – Dr Christine Phillips

GPs – Dr Katrina Anderson, Dr Joo-Inn Chew, Dr James Eldridge,

Dr Sue Baglow, Dr Bernadette McKay

Physiotherapist – Therese Keily-Wynter

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Team Leader – Loan Freeman

Finance Officers – Gen Jones and Oki Widodo

Admin/Reception Staff – Andrew Sein, Pam Mitchell

IT contractor – Forward IT with special thanks to Hrovje Grabic

MIGRATION AGENTS

IAAAS – Jennifer Tode and James Brown

FUNDING

We acknowledge the following funding bodies for their financial support:

Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing – Program Assisting Survivors of Torture and Trauma (PASTT – counselling, training and community capacity building)

Commonwealth Department of Immigration and Border Protection – Immigration Advice and Application Assistance Service (IAAAS), Complex Case Services, counselling for people in community detention and asylum seekers participating in Status Resolution Support Service (SRSS).

Commonwealth Department of Social Services – Emergency Relief

ACT Government Health Directorate – counselling, primary health services and health promotion projects

ACT Education Directorate – community education programs for young asylum seekers

ACT Government Community Services Directorate – children's program, community development program activities, work with young people, training and casework with families.

Snow Foundation – driving lessons and university fees

Australian Practice Nurse Association – establishment of liver clinic

PARTNERS AND ALLIANCES

ACT Dental Program

ACT Mental Health

ACT Health Community Pediatrics Registrar Program

ACT Council of Parents and Citizens Associations

Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA)

ACT Pathology

Adult Migrant English Program (Navitas English)

Australia-Karen Organisation of the ACT

Australian National University Medical School Academic Unit (AUGP)

Australia Mon Association Inc

Asylum Seekers Transitional Accommodation Program (Everyman

Australia, Connections ACT, Companion House, Canberra Refugee

Support and Housing ACT)

Canberra Imaging

Calvary Hospital Refugee Mentoring Program

Canberra Institute of Technology

Canberra Refugee Support

Capital Pathology

Capital Football

Dickson College Secondary Introductory English Centre

Forum of Australian Services for Survivors of Torture and Trauma (FASSTT)

Everyman Australia

Garran Medical Imaging

Flamen Nominees

Foodbank

International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT)

Kambah Community Gardens

Legal Aid ACT

Majura Tennis Club

Multicultural Youth Service (MYS)

National Capital Diagnostic Imaging (NCDI)

ACT Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA)

Our Place Youth Accommodation

Relationships Australia

Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA)

Spectacle Subsidy Scheme

University of Canberra

Snow Foundation

Our Place Youth Accommodation Program

From the Chairperson and Director

More people are now forcibly displaced by persecution, war and human rights violations globally than at any time since the end of World War Two.

At the same time, Australia's political context and public debate was often dispiriting over the year. Public discussion was dominated by range of destructive ideas about asylum seekers, refugees and multiculturalism. Debate about asylum seekers and refugees on Manus and Nauru raged on, with all independent reports indicating that asylum seekers health and wellbeing was being seriously eroded in this long term detention (UNHCR Submission to Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee Nov 2016).

At Companion House we see from our own work on a daily basis that refugees and asylum seekers rebuild their lives and enrich their new community. We know we can support people who have survived extreme human rights violations to rebuild and recover. People arrive and strengthen and support our community as a whole.

It was a pleasure for Companion House to work with 1190 people over 2016-17, both asylum seekers and people from a refugee background. We worked with adults, young people and children from 30 different language groups.

Major themes in our work over the year were:

- Ensuring that clients in refugee processing processes had migration assistance and relevant health information and torture and trauma history documented and presented;
- engagement with new and emerging communities, particularly Arabic speakers from Iraq and Syria;
- building casework capacity and work on affordable housing issues ;
- work on medical accreditation and
- high rates of suicidal ideation and suicide risk amongst asylum seekers and people on temporary refugees visas

Companion House was able to remain responsive to human rights issues and the needs of asylum seekers through private donations and community support. We thank lawyers, migration agents and psychiatrists who have donated their time or charged us low fees for working with survivors of torture and trauma on legal and health issues.

We very much look forward to building on this year's work in collaboration with clients, community, friends, partners and funders over 2017-18.

Kim Ryan Chairperson
Kathy Ragless Director

"People say that the war in my country lasted ten years. But inside of me, that war has lasted forever. I will not ever forget what I saw. That war is still raging inside of me. That war never ended for me"

CLIENT 2017

"Your service brings peace to people like us"

**TRANSLATED
CLIENT SURVEY
2017**

Goal One

Survivors of torture and trauma heal and rehabilitate from torture and trauma experiences

"I would like to thank all of the staff in this place which gives hope to everyone who lost hope"

TRANSLATED CLIENT
SURVEY 2017

"Their kindness and gentleness to listen make me have the courage to speak out what I want"

TRANSLATED CLIENT
SURVEY 2017

"Companion House is good for me. I feel safe to say what I want when I am with the doctor"

TRANSLATED CLIENT
SURVEY 2017

COUNSELLING, CASEWORK AND COMPLEMENTARY THERAPY

COUNSELLING

The counselling team worked with survivors of torture and trauma from many different cultural backgrounds. The team worked with people across the age spectrum. Most people were asylum seekers or from a refugee background.

We used a wide range of therapeutic tools with a strong focus on building safety. The counselling team is a multidisciplinary team of social workers and psychologists.

We worked with adults, young people and with primary aged children. Work with children is conducted in close cooperation with ACT schools.

The most common clinical presentations were anxiety, depression and post trauma symptoms.

The percentage of people with suicidal ideation and high suicide risk amongst clients increased this year, particularly amongst asylum seekers and people on temporary visas.

CASEWORK

Caseworkers worked in close cooperation with counselling and medical teams to support people with accessing social entitlements and a range of practical life issues.

Migration issues, housing issues, homelessness, financial distress and access to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) were the most common challenges for people.

We also managed one head leased private rental property aimed at ensuring access to affordable housing for a family struggling in the private rental market.

COMPLEMENTARY THERAPY

Complementary therapy assists with physical pain, anxiety, depression and post traumatic symptoms. We provided Bowen therapy and Bach Flower remedies to assist people with these challenges.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Companion House's Medical Service worked with newly arrived people from a refugee background as they settle into Australian life; people with complex needs over the longer term; and asylum seekers.

Services included health screening and primary health care, help to manage chronic and complex health needs, assistance to access specialist care and pharmaceuticals for people with no income or financial distress.

The service also provides free primary health care to asylum seekers with no other primary health care options.

The service provides medical and nursing services five days a week and is enriched by:

- A paediatric registrar clinic
- A network of psychiatrists providing pro bono or low fee support
- A weekly physiotherapy clinic
- Yoga sessions for women
- Strong partnerships with a wide range of other health providers.

We also established a healthy liver clinic focused on best practice treatment for people with chronic Hepatitis B and over the year.

COUNSELLING, CASEWORK AND PRIMARY HEALTH SERVICES

Program	Number of People
Counselling with adults and young people	235
Children's holiday programs, and group work and individual counselling with children	44
Complex Case	7
Complementary Therapy	32
Casework	230
Medical patients	1149



Artist: Po Wah Po Dan

Goal Two

The community welcomes refugees and is sensitive to the needs and strengths of survivors of torture and trauma

"I will apply the trauma recovery goals we discussed in the workshop to my work with clients"

TRAINING

Companion House ran 39 training sessions with 567 participants from 79 Government and community organisations.

Comments from evaluations and feedback included:

"I came to gain a greater understanding and appreciation of the issues for refugees and I feel I gained this beyond expectations."

"I really appreciated being able to consider work practice and areas of sensitivity."

"Interactive, highly engaging and very useful information."

"Very insightful and thought provoking, and lots to take away and think about."

"Practical strategies on how to work more effectively with our clients - with listening, empathy and respect."

Training sessions focused on health and related services (including mental health), and child, youth and family services. Training sessions included: understanding refugee experience, working with survivors of torture and trauma and trauma informed care, understanding young people from refugee backgrounds, working with families from refugee backgrounds, the fundamentals of working cross culturally, preventing vicarious trauma for workers, and communicating with patients and clients from diverse language backgrounds using interpreters.

ADVOCACY

Companion House works with services, policy makers and funders to influence policy. Over the year we focused on:

- Access to affordable housing
- Use of interpreters in service delivery, particularly in the health system
- Asylum seeker access to migration advice and assistance
- Health effects of long term detention on clients in indefinite detention
- Citizenship legislation changes
- Local service access for asylum seekers
- Education pathways for young asylum seekers
- Visa cancellation issues
- Advocacy for torture survivors and people with vulnerable mental health in the migration decision making processes.

Goal Three

Communities affected by torture and trauma are strong, resilient and skilled in ways that enable them to thrive in Australia

"We walk together, we talk together, we are free – no problems, no stress, we are happy."

"We can meet each other, walking, talking and we see the trees, different trees from our country, this makes us happy."

"In the [refugee] camp we just sit, we can't go outside – now we can walk to places in Canberra – like a bird escaped from a cave, we are free."

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, CAPACITY BUILDING AND HEALTH PROMOTION

Our work to support communities and help them thrive in Australia focused on two large health promotion projects in 2016 – 17:

HEALTHY FUTURES: GARDENS, HEALTHY EATING AND GETTING ACTIVE

GARDENS

32 families participated in the Happiness Garden in Pialligo growing fresh vegetables and herbs both for themselves and to share with their communities. Community members also participated in an open day for the wider Canberra community, and a celebration dinner using produce from the garden.

HEALTHY EATING

We ran several parents' groups on healthy eating and hydration for families with school holiday activities for children. 35 parents took part in these activities.

GETTING ACTIVE

Men from several different communities (Tamil, Hazara and others) have joined in their preferred activities, which have included cricket, futsal and tennis games. As well as promoting healthy activity these groups have highlighted the skills of participants and strengthened the bonds of friendship and connections to local facilities.

Women were linked to local community exercise groups and 18 women participated in a women and girls' only swimming program. 22 women then participated in a community pilot to open the pool on an ongoing basis for some women's only time. Through our medical team we have also run an older women's yoga group.

HEALTHY GROWING

In 2016 – 17 we ran three workshops for 52 young peer mentors from the ages of 18–26 years old on the health impacts of alcohol and tobacco. These were run in partnership with ATODA (Alcohol and Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT). Peer mentors with the support of project workers shared this information on safer use of alcohol and avoidance of tobacco at activities designed by young people, including football games, picnics to Cotter Dam, Cane Ball competition, girls' only exercise group and self defence group, futsal and badminton. This health promotion project reached over 179 young people from refugee backgrounds during the 2016 – 17 financial year.

HEALTHY AGEING

Older community members and their families continued to participate in regular yoga and gentle exercise sessions at Companion House. They also continued their very popular walking group. In partnership with Belconnen Community Service transport, older community members and peer mentors visited bushwalking areas and accessible community areas, such as Black Mountain, Yerrabi Ponds, Weston Park, and the Arboretum. Six peer mentors took part in a training session to better support older members of their communities to remain active.

In addition to these health promotion activities we assisted women, vulnerable men and young people to obtain drivers licences, and supported young asylum seekers with career advice and training pathways.

MIGRATION ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE

Over 2016 – 17 Companion House managed the Immigration Advice and Application Assistance Scheme (IAAAS) for the ACT.

Under the IAAAS we provided:

- 294 immigration advice sessions (most of these were focused on family reunion applications) and
- 13 asylum seekers with immigration advice.

We also sourced support for people not eligible for the IAAAS - this work is reported more fully under Goal 4. In addition, we ran a volunteer program to support people to complete migration documentation.

EMERGENCY FINANCIAL RELIEF AND DONATED GOODS

Over 2016–17 we granted emergency relief assistance to 148 people, mainly bus tickets, pantry vouchers, fuel cards and assistance with medications

We also:

- Continued to distribute a large volume of donated clothing and food, including regular deliveries of bread and groceries
- Facilitated a program which received donated computers and laptops and prepared them for donation.
- Operated an on-site food pantry and stock of bulk rice and lentils.

We note that 75% of this work was funded by private donations.

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Companion House did small scale but very productive work focused on education and employment over the year.

We reported work in partnership with University of Canberra to ensure education pathways for asylum seekers under goal 4. In addition to this we:

- Provided seven scholarship grants to young people (aged 18 years to 25 years old) to undertake their studies across a wide range of vocational courses including massage therapy and aged care.
- Worked with young people in career planning and mentoring (in partnership with Higher Paths Consulting) to eleven vulnerable young people, including sourcing two apprenticeships.
- Supported adults seeking employment to prepare resumes and, apply for ABNs and link to specialist employment providers.

"When we sit at home it is not good for us- when we go out and meet friends and feel happier and healthier and do more."

"We meet with friends, talking, walking together, doing exercise together – we open our hearts and help each other."

"I feel good when I am in the water, I need to swim it makes me feel so good and relaxed."

Goal Four

Human rights principles underpin our work and our expertise about human rights issues informs policy makers and the community at large

Human rights principles continue to underpin our work with our clients and the community.

There continued to be many compelling human rights issues for asylum seekers in particular. We worked with individuals to assist people cope with delayed processing times, re-detention, visa cancellations, poverty and separation from family. We also fed policy input about our experiences through peak bodies and to governments.

Particular areas of focus are described below. These activities were all funded through the generosity of private donors and the Snow Foundation.

EDUCATION PATHWAYS FOR YOUNG ASYLUM SEEKERS

Companion House entered into an alliance with the University of Canberra to ensure five young asylum seekers were able to access tertiary education in 2016, who would otherwise have had to pay international student fees. We added a CIT student to this commitment in mid-2016, bringing the numbers of students supported to six young people.

The University is providing generous scholarships to the five students and Companion House fundraises for the cost of remaining fees (equivalent to HECS) for each student. Companion House pays domestic student fees for our CIT commitment.

Students at the University of Canberra have now completed three very successful semesters –with many congratulations to them. This has only been possible due to the generosity of private donors, the Press Club Mid-Winter Ball and the Snow Foundation.

Migration advice and assistance for asylum seekers who arrived in Australia by boat

Companion House sourced and worked with fifteen migration agents over 2014-2016. We supported agents by providing interpreters, office space, organising appointments and paying for work when we have donations to do so.

Companion House also advocated for torture survivors and people with vulnerable mental health in decision making processes as a core part of our commitment to human rights principles.

ONGOING INITIATIVES

In previous years Companion House has initiated and worked closely with partner organisations to ensure asylum seeker access to local services and housing for vulnerable men. Over 2016-17 we continued to collaborate with:

- The ACT Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) and Office of Regulatory Services (ORS) in the granting of ACT Access Cards to asylum seekers (which ensure access to ACT local Government services).
- Seven local partner agencies to operate the Asylum seekers Transitional Accommodation Program (ASTA) which provides shared accommodation for vulnerable unaccompanied asylum seeker men.

"It meant everything to have migration support. I was in desperation trying to figure out what to do. I just need safety."

ASYLUM SEEKER

Goal Five

Companion House is a high quality and responsive service with excellent governance and management

Companion House continued to focus strongly on continuous improvement and the achievement of quality standards.

We focused on the midterm review of our accreditation against the National Standards for Mental Health Services (NSMHS) and registered for the process of medical accreditation.

Involvement in the Forum of Australian Services for Survivors of Torture and Trauma (FASSTT) remained important for service quality and development.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS – ORGANISATIONAL EFFICIENCY

1. 100% of organisational expenditure is dedicated to achievement of identified strategic priorities each financial cycle – **achieved**
2. A minimum of 80% of total funds expended is dedicated to direct service delivery each financial year – **achieved at 80% of expended funds**
3. Staff structure maintains 90% of staff in direct service delivery against strategic priorities each financial year – **achieved at 90%**
4. Client to staff ratios are maintained and do not significantly decline in any given period each financial year – **achieved, client to staff ratios remained within 4% variation**
5. Volume of service delivery to staff ratio do not significantly decline in any given period each financial year – **achieved, total volume of service delivery remained within 3% of previous year.**

Beautiful, cared for, she asks me about my life

Inside is a refugee, living without a homeland

Her questions are numerous, and my heart beat faster

I didn't know what to tell her; deprivation humiliated me,

They stole my emotions, and left me with my sighs

A hanging lifeless swing, vulnerable... this is who I am

If I speak, I am silenced, and silence is obliviousness.

SYRIAN WOMAN, MOTHER OF 2 CHILDREN

We offer heartfelt condolences to the Canberra Tamil community and family members in Sri Lanka at the loss of Jason Anthon in an accident on Christmas Day 2016. Jason was a well known person at Companion House. He was always a very bright and humorous person who worked hard to support and help others. We will remember him with affection always.



Artist: Po Wah Po Dan

Financial Report

Companion House

Assisting Survivors of Torture and Trauma Incorporated

ABN 98 349 936 816

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BOARD REPORT

The Members of the Board present their report on the Association for the year ended 30 June 2017.

The names of members of the Board in office throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

R. Verma	I. Losoncz
K. Ragless	K. Middleton
K. Woodward	V. Blanpain
K. Ryan	J. Cribb (until April 2017)
T. Matulick (until October 2016)	

Principal Activities

Companion House provides counselling and advocacy for survivors of torture and trauma. There was no change to the nature of this activity during the year.

Significant Changes in State of Affairs

No significant changes in the associations state of affairs occurred during the year.

Operating Results

The surplus of the Association for the year amounted to \$11,606 (2016 - loss \$12,470).

After Balance Date Events

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the reporting period which significantly affected or may affect the operations of the Association, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Association in future periods.

Likely Developments

The Association expects to maintain the present status and level of operations.


(Board Member)

Date

25/9/17


(Board Member)

Date

22/09/2017

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

The Members of the Board have determined that the association is not a reporting entity. The Board have determined that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outline in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the members of the Board of the association the financial report including the statement of comprehensive income, statement of financial position, statement of changes in members' funds, statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act); and

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Companion House Assisting Survivors of Torture and Trauma Incorporated as at 30th June 2017 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. comply with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1; and
3. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Board and is signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.


(Board Member)

Date

25/9/17


(Board Member)

Date

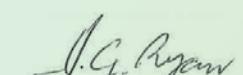
22/09/2017

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION TO COMPANION HOUSE ASSISTING SURVIVORS OF TORTURE AND TRAUMA INCORPORATED UNDER SECTION 60-40 OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFITS COMMISSION ACT 2012 (ACNC ACT)

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2017 there have been no contraventions of:

- (a) the auditor independence requirements under section 60-40 of the ACNC Act in relation to the audit; and
- (b) any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.


THOMAS DAVIS & CO.


J G Ryan Partner

SYDNEY,
Date: 25th September, 2017

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.

Independent Auditors Report

Opinion

which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2017, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in members' funds and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the Board Members' declaration.

In our opinion, the financial report of Companion House Assisting Survivors of Torture and Trauma Incorporated has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including;

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June, 2017 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

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 are independent of the company 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.

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

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution and Use

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the company's financial reporting responsibilities under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of the Board Members for the Financial Report

The Board Members of the company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the needs of the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The Board Members' responsibility also includes such internal control as the Board Members determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a 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 Board Members are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Board Members either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

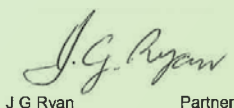
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with 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 this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board Members.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Board Members' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.



THOMAS DAVIS & CO.


J G Ryan Partner

SYDNEY,
Date: 25th September, 2017

We communicate with the Board Members regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30TH JUNE 2017**

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	534,971	292,347
Trade and other receivables	3	13,838	41,968
Investments	4	28,496	27,783
Total current assets		<u>577,305</u>	<u>362,098</u>
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	5	53,157	66,849
Total Non-Current assets		<u>53,157</u>	<u>66,849</u>
Total assets		<u>630,462</u>	<u>428,947</u>
Current liabilities			
Creditors and accruals	6	37,618	26,810
Grants received in advance	7	223,635	75,428
Provisions	8	170,529	139,635
Total current liabilities		<u>431,782</u>	<u>241,873</u>
Total liabilities		<u>431,782</u>	<u>241,873</u>
Net assets		<u>198,680</u>	<u>187,074</u>
Members' funds			
Retained profits/(losses)	9	198,680	187,074
Total members' funds		<u>198,680</u>	<u>187,074</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

**STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
Revenue		1,972,147	1,841,543
Employee Benefits		(1,376,469)	(1,313,701)
Amortisation and Depreciation		(16,262)	(20,018)
Other Expenses		(567,810)	(520,294)
Profit / (Loss) before Income tax		<u>11,606</u>	<u>(12,470)</u>
Income Tax Expense	1(c)	-	-
Profit / (Loss) after Income tax		<u>11,606</u>	<u>(12,470)</u>
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-
Total comprehensive income attributable to the members of the association		<u><u>11,606</u></u>	<u><u>(12,470)</u></u>

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN MEMBERS' FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Accumulated Surplus - Beginning of Year	187,074	199,544
Profit / (Loss) after Income Tax	11,606	(12,470)
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-
Accumulated Surplus at 30 June 2017	<u><u>198,680</u></u>	<u><u>187,074</u></u>

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

	Note	2017 \$ Inflows (Outflows)	2016 \$ Inflows (Outflows)
Cash flows from operating activities			
Interest received		6,201	2,667
Grants & Medical Programs received		2,018,749	1,779,818
Other receipts		122,822	143,591
Payments to suppliers and employees		(1,902,577)	(1,860,180)
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	12	<u><u>245,195</u></u>	<u><u>65,896</u></u>
Cash flow from investing activities			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(2,571)	-
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities		<u><u>(2,571)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held		242,624	65,896
Cash at the beginning of the financial year		292,347	226,451
Cash at the end of the financial year	2	<u><u>534,971</u></u>	<u><u>292,347</u></u>

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

NOTE 1 - STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting preparation requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act). The Members of the Board have determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis. It is based on historical cost, and does not take into account changing values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets. Cost is based on the fair values of the consideration given in exchange for assets. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

The following specific accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period, unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this report.

(a) Revenue recognition

Government grants

Government grants are recognised at fair value when there is reasonable assurance that the grant will be received, and all grant conditions will be met.

Interest revenue

Interest revenue is recognised on a time proportionate basis that takes into account the effective yield on the financial asset.

Fundraising and other income

Fundraising and other income are recognised as revenue when received. Contributions in respect specific purposes whereby those funds have not been used at balance date are recognised when the funds are expended.

(b) Employee Benefits

The amount expected to be paid to employees for their entitlements to annual leave and long service leave is accrued annually at current pay rates.

(c) Income tax

Taxation has not been provided for as the association is exempt for taxation under section 23(e) of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1936, as it is a public benevolent institution.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

NOTE 1 - STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(d) Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment are brought to account at cost or at independent or Committee of Management valuation, less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation or amortisation.

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets, including leasehold improvements, are depreciated over their useful lives commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use, to their residual values.

The depreciation rates for each class of asset are as follows:

Asset	Rate	Method
Office Equipment	20% to 40%	Diminishing balance
Motor Vehicles	22.5%	Diminishing balance
Improvements	5%	Straight line

(e) Impairment of assets

At each reporting date, the association reviews the carrying values of its assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and the value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the statement of comprehensive income.

(f) Leases

Leases of fixed assets, where substantially all the risks and benefits incidental to the ownership of the asset, but not the legal ownership are transferred to the company are classified as finance leases.

Finance leases are capitalised recording an asset and a liability equal to the present value of the minimum lease payments, including any guaranteed residual value. Lease payments are allocated between the reduction of the lease liability and the lease interest expense for the period.

Leased assets are amortised over their estimated useful lives.

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are charged as expenses in the periods in which they are incurred.

(g) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

NOTE 1 - STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(h) Goods and services tax

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST),

- (i) where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the taxation authority, it is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of an asset or as part of an item of expense; or
- (ii) for receivables and payables which are recognised inclusive of GST.

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included as part of receivables or payables.

(i) Economic Dependency

The Association's continuing operations are based on the understanding that there will be future government grants to cover ongoing commitments.

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
NOTE 2 - CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash at bank & on hand	534,971	292,347
	<u>534,971</u>	<u>292,347</u>

NOTE 3 - TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

Trade Debtors	13,838	32,121
GST Receivable	-	9,847
	<u>13,838</u>	<u>41,968</u>

NOTE 4 - INVESTMENTS

Term Deposit	28,496	27,783
	<u>28,496</u>	<u>27,783</u>

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

	2017 \$	2016 \$
NOTE 5 - PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Building Improvements at cost	17,215	17,215
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>(5,127)</u>	<u>(4,330)</u>
	<u>12,088</u>	<u>12,885</u>
Plant and Equipment at cost	93,766	91,195
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>(72,437)</u>	<u>(62,702)</u>
	<u>21,329</u>	<u>28,493</u>
Motor Vehicles at cost	68,934	68,934
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>(49,194)</u>	<u>(43,463)</u>
	<u>19,740</u>	<u>25,471</u>
TOTAL PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	<u><u>53,157</u></u>	<u><u>66,849</u></u>
NOTE 6 - TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES		
Sundry Creditors and Accruals	37,618	26,810
	<u>37,618</u>	<u>26,810</u>
NOTE 7 - OTHER LIABILITIES		
Grants Received in Advance	223,635	75,428
	<u>223,635</u>	<u>75,428</u>
NOTE 8 - PROVISIONS		
Current		
Annual Leave	124,512	102,424
Long Service Leave	46,017	37,211
	<u>170,529</u>	<u>139,635</u>

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
NOTE 9 - RETAINED PROFIT/(LOSS)		
Balance at the beginning of the year	187,074	199,544
Profit/(loss) for the year	11,606	(12,470)
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Balance at the end of the year	<u>198,680</u>	<u>187,074</u>
NOTE 10 - RECONCILIATION OF CASH FLOWS		
Operating profit / (loss) from ordinary activities after income tax	11,606	(12,470)
<i>Non cash items</i>		
Amortisation and depreciation	16,262	20,018
Reinvested interest on investments	(713)	(737)
<i>Change in operating assets and liabilities</i>		
(Increase) / decrease in trade and other receivables	28,130	22,842
Increase / (decrease) in trade and other payables	10,809	(31,932)
Increase / (decrease) in income in advance	148,207	62,428
Increase / (decrease) in employee provisions	30,894	5,747
Cash flows provided by / (used in) operating activities	<u>245,195</u>	<u>65,896</u>

Thank you



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For all those donors who assisted to fundraise and support after the tragic death of our client and friend Jason Anthon, particularly the Tamil Association ACT, Lanka Lions Cricket Club, Immanuel Christian Assembly, Tamil Senior Citizens Association. Special thanks to Rosie Done for her help at this sad time.

Anne Marie Nichol and Kym Le Riche for donation of rental property at cost

Ardeshir Gholipour, Farishta Arzoo and Po Wah Po Dan for lending their beautiful art works for the Refugee Week art exhibition at Companion House.

Dorothy Braund Estate and Richardson Family Trust for generous donations.

Psychiatrists: Dr John Saboisky, Dr Meredith Whiting, Dr Kate Lubbe, Dr Ann Harrison and Dr Phillip Keightley.

University of Canberra for provision of scholarships to asylum seeker students in partnership with Companion House.

Migration agents: David Chen, Marion Le, Marianne Dickie, James Brown, Ruth Haigh, Ebenezer Banful, Fragomens,, Er-Kai Wang, Jessica Kinsella, Jennifer Tode, Owen Harris, Hugh Wyndham and Carly Saeedi.

The **leaders and peer mentors** from all the refugee communities we work with particularly Manoranjitham Ramachandran, Peter Kuot , Mustafa Ehsan, Zelai Chinzah, Shin Thu Gay and Velupillai Ariyaratnam Balasuthanthira.

The **volunteers supporting the migration agents** by assisting people with filling of forms – Christine Stewart, Jenny Rae and Peter Williams.

Specialist Services: Dr Andrew Miller, Dr Tuan Phan, Dr Eric Ho, Dr Kate Drummond and Dr David Tridgell for providing accessible specialist services.

The Australian National University Medical Students, who through the Medical Revue Committee, donated all the profits of their annual Med Revue to Companion House Medical Service.

The **Press Gallery Mid Winter Ball 2016** for generous donations

Free Computer Coop for rebuilding and supplying computers and laptops at no charge for Companion House clients. Also to the many donors of laptops and computers.

Sue Gair for pro bono yoga classes.

Jenny McGee for bringing weekly delivery of donated bread from Brumby's bakery in Lyneham and **Rosie Done** for bringing deliveries from Jabal Halal Market.

With thanks for ongoing and generous donation of food and goods: **Canberra Organic Growers, Kambah Garden, Gunghalin Mosque, Café Ink, Jabal Halal Market Mawson, St Paul's Anglican Church, Manuka.**

With thanks for generous and effective fundraising and donations to: **St Paul's Anglican Church Manuka, Yarralumla Uniting Church Mid Winter craft Fair, Refugee Action Committee Canberra, Refugee Action Committee University of Canberra and Australian Catholic University Refugee Action Committee, Canberra Organic Growers, Kambah Garden, Radford College, South Woden Uniting Church, Soroptimist International Canberra Club, Inner Wheel Club of Canberra, Holy Covenant Anglican Church.**

Evelyn Gore, Phoenix Knitters South Woden Craft Group for coordinating warm knitted items needed for a Canberra winter.

Fred Fawke for helping with many practical tasks including moving house

Relationships Australia for support of the Happiness Garden.