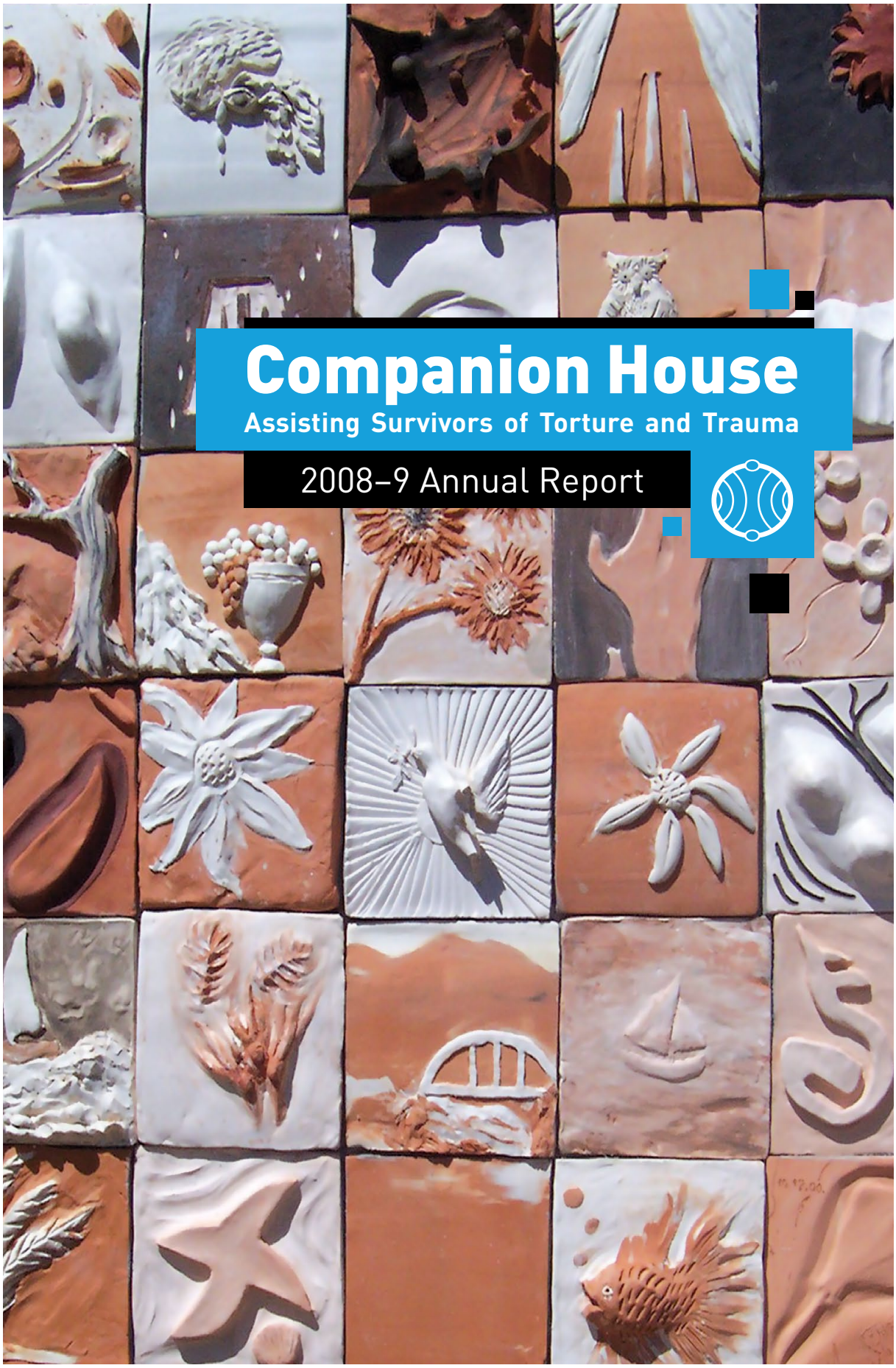


Companion House

Assisting Survivors of Torture and Trauma

2008–9 Annual Report

Staff, Management, Patrons and Funding

Board of Management

Chairperson
Digby Habel
Secretary
Jennifer Hurley
Treasurer
Carol Keil
Members
Helen Cory, Satnam Singh, Gillian Hunt, Elizabeth McLaughlin, Kathy Ragless (ex-officio)

Staff

Director
Kathy Ragless

Counselling Team
Counselling Team Leader
Elizabeth Price
Counsellor/Advocate - Children
Deborah Nelson
Counsellor/Advocate - Children
Caroline Rolls
Counsellor/Advocate - Early Intervention
Fiona Delacy
Counsellor/Advocate - Early Intervention /General Services
Clare O'Rourke
Counsellor/Advocate - General Services (Young people and adults)
Robin Alderson Smith
Counsellor/Advocate - General Services (Young people and adults)
Ina Susljik
Complementary Therapist
Rosemary Taylor

Community Development Team
Team Leader
Vesna Golic
Project Leader
Hongsar Channaibanya
Project Leader
Sandra Lloyd
Project Workers
Siri Mon Chan, Lucia Costa, Ayiik Garang, Jai Sharma

Medical Team
Practice Nurse
Fiona McDonald
Medical Coordinator
Silvia Salas Meyer
Clinical Director
Dr Chris Phillips
Dr Joo-Inn Chew
Dr Bernadette McKay
Dr Katrina Anderson

Complex Case Services
Pam Mitchell
Mathew Anish

Administrative Team
Administrative and Reception Coordinators
Loan Huynh and Sai Maung
Finance Officer
Gen Hemsley-Wilken
IT Support
Eric Warner from Epi Media

Training, Advocacy and Community Awareness
Trainer/Advocate
Glenn Flanagan
Trainer/Sudanese Bi cultural worker
James Atem Mayen

Patrons

Justice Elizabeth Evatt AO
Emeritus Professor Jerzy Zubryzcki
Professor William Maley AM

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.

Cover: Sculpture by artists from a refugee background at the front of Companion house, familiar to many visitors.

Funding

Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing
Program Assisting Survivors of Torture and Trauma (PASTT) - Counselling and advocacy and community capacity building

Department of Immigration and Citizenship
Short Term Torture and Trauma Counselling, Community Awareness and Complex Case Services.

Department of Family, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
Emergency Relief and Sharing and Learning Project

ACT Health
Counselling and medical services

ACT Health Promotion
Young Men Growing, Healthy Communities Projects and Dinka Folktales Book

ACT Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services
Children's Program, Community Development Program and Infrastructure Grant

Northside Community Service
Mon Community in Transition Project

ACT Chief Minister's Department
Dinka Folktales Book

Mental Health Council
Database Development Project

Pro-Bono Professional Support

We gratefully received significant amounts of pro-bono migration services from Mr Peter Steele, Mr Hugh Ford and Ms Jennifer Tode in 2008-9. Clayton-Utz also provided high quality pro bono legal services. Professor Martin Richardson provided hours of technical support for the production of the Dinka Foktales from Sudan storybook and DVD.

Partners and alliances

- Forum of Australian Services for Survivors of Torture and Trauma (FASSTT)
- Australia Mon Association inc
- Australia-Karen Organisation of the ACT
- Canberra Sierra Leone Association
- Chin Community Goulburn
- Sudanese Australia Community Association
- Dinka congregation at St George's Anglican Church
- Adult Migrant English Program
- Northside Community Service
- North Ainslie Primary Introductory English Centre
- Interchange General Practice
- ACT Division of General Practice
- ACT Dental Program
- Capital Pathology
- St John the Apostle Refugee Resettlement Committee
- Canberra Refugee Support
- CatholicCare
- ACT Housing
- St Vincent de Paul
- Multicultural Youth Service
- Goulburn Multicultural Centre
- Migrant and Refugee Settlement Service of the ACT
- Construction, Industry and Employment Association (CITEA)

Principles of Service

- We acknowledge and respect the strength and resourcefulness of survivors of the refugee experience.
- We respect and respond to diverse needs including those determined by culture, religion, ethnicity, gender and sexuality.
- We promote client independence, self-determination and informed choice.
- Our services are based on a holistic approach to health care.
- We are committed to the confidentiality of all client information.
- 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.
- Our services are open and accountable to feedback and suggestions from clients and the community.
- We promote and preserve human rights.
- We as staff support each other in our work.

From the Chairperson

This last year has marked the passing of Professor Jerzy Zubrycki our Patron, the "father of Australian multiculturalism" and a great advocate for everything that Companion House stands for. We give our sincere condolences to his family and especially to his daughter Jo, a former member of our Board.

During the year, Companion House became the first private organisation to nominate to be included under the ACT Human Rights Act. Human Rights have always been a major aspect of our work and our decision to nominate is most appropriate. We also provided an address to a Human Rights forum initiated by Amnesty International and have partnered other organisations to work on human rights issues.

It has also been a year of appreciation and affirmation of Companion House's quiet professionalism by other non government organisations and by government agencies and Ministers. So it is a good time to give thanks. Firstly, to the hundreds of people who came to Companion House this year as survivors: survivors with enormous resilience and people with great capacity to build our community socially and commercially. All of us at Companion House are honoured by your presence in our community.

Secondly, our staff. You have achieved so much with so little for so many. You are a huge asset to our community. This year staff and management have had to deal with unusual issues such as our pending move from O'Connor to Cook, the sudden influx of asylum seekers, as well as the important day to day work. I am also deeply impressed with the work that is done by staff on risk management, policy development, planning and financial systems. I am also very happy with the way the annual soccer day in Refugee Week, initiated by our staff, has developed into such an important event for so many of our clients and also for the broader refugee community.

Finally thanks to your Board members. This year, the Board provided managerial, administrative, legal, accounting and educational skills. Many thanks for your important input. The Board's fundraiser was a great success once again.

We can look forward to another year of achievement, in fact our 21st year. On 2nd December this year we will formally celebrate our 20th year, leaving a significant impact on the ACT community and beyond.

Digby Habel



From the Director

2008-9 was a blur of business and activity for Companion House. While our old building slowly crumbled around us, with door frames disintegrating and old pipes bursting, Companion House thrived. We worked with hundreds of people over the year across programs and were honored by people's determination to recover and rebuild their lives and by the skill and determination we see amongst the people we work with.

Counselling programs grew, predominantly as a result of the growth in the number of asylum seekers in the ACT. The medical service also continued to grow as a result of the general shortage of primary health care in Canberra. Nonetheless, both services dealt well with increases in numbers, often through the sheer hard work and determination of relevant staff. Our new Practice Nurse has also been instrumental in in coping with the increase in medical patients and asylum seekers. Both services also worked hard on continuous improvement and best practice issues.

It was a pleasure to work with the creativity of community development activities over 2008-9. Weekends in particular have been a busy time for Companion House staff who have run a multitude of activities focused on on cultural transition, health promotion, parenting and building community capacity, across six communities. Through staff partnership and consultation with communities, we also produced the Dinka Folktales Book and DVD and ran a small employment /training pilot in 2008-9.

Training programs, focused on promoting an understanding of the refugee experience and building skills in working with survivors of torture and trauma very much consolidated in 2008-9, with increasing quality and enthusiastic evaluations. We also worked hard on a myriad of policy and advocacy issues over the year and strengthened this work by forming working groups with partner agencies to work on the key issues of housing and asylum seekers in the ACT.

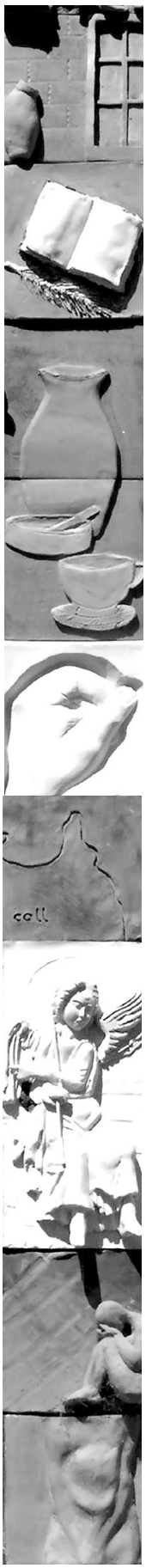
At an administrative level we continued to work on a wide range of issues, including a new database and standards implementation. We had a strong reception and administrative team over 2008-9, which was a great bonus over the year.

The policy context of our work changed notably as we thankfully saw the last of the Temporary Protection Visas, changes in detention policy and the increased emphasis on a humane response to asylum seekers.

At the local Canberra level, the lack of affordable housing continued to provide a substantial barrier to succcessful settlement, although the Refugee Transitional Housing Program (RTHP), certainly helped to alleviate the worst of this problem. Whilst the Chin community in Goulburn are doing very well, there remain fundamental questions about employment and training pathways for people in the jurisdiction that are as yet unanswered.

With many thanks to funders, friends and supporters for your contributions over 2008-9. Our work continues into our 21st year with great optimism.

Kathy Ragless



Reports

Objective One: Survivors of torture and trauma from refugee backgrounds have the opportunity to heal and rehabilitate

1.Children

The Children's Program is nested within the broad range of services offered by Companion House to people who have sought refuge in Australia from persecution, torture and war-related trauma. The program provides individual, group, family, and school support to help children come to terms with past experience and thrive in their new environment.

There are compelling reasons for offering services that focus particularly on the experiences of children and young people. Western psychological research shows that children who have experienced traumatising events respond to them in ways that are both similar to and different from the responses shown by adults. Like adults, they show symptoms of anxiety, anger, sadness, grief and depression, along with the classic symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). But because they are still developing,they do not yet have the physical, social, cognitive or emotional maturity that comes with adulthood and may also express their distress in ways that differ from the ways adults express them. Their responses, shaped by past trauma, can easily create or exacerbate problems in the Australian setting,especially in social contexts such as family, school and community.

The Children's Program worked mainly, though not exclusively, with primary aged children over 2008-9. Regular school holiday assessment and activity programs, play therapy groups, individual play therapy and support to parents remained the main focus of the program. The Children's Program also worked closely with schools and families to build capacity in, and understanding of, the needs of children affected by torture and trauma. We worked with 71 children in the program in 2008-9.

The Children's Program also worked with parents and children to produce a beautiful book and audio DVD of Dinka Folktales over 2008-9. In addition, the Children's Program worked hard on a clinical practice manual over the year, which is now in final draft.

2. Newly arrived people

Companion House's Early Intervention Program (EIP) is focused on newly arrived humanitarian entrants in their first year in Australia. The service is part of the Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Scheme (IHSS). It is a vibrant and busy area of work, with a constant, and unpredictable, flow of new arrivals. it is often inspiring and motivating to welcome and work with people in this very early stage of settlement. It is a time full of huge adjustments as people embark on the beginning of rebuilding their lives.

Early Intervention Counsellor/Advocates worked in Canberra and Goulburn to assess psychosocial needs and provide short term counselling. People came from a wide range of backgrounds, with the biggest group being Karen people from Burma. We worked with 200 newly arrived people over 2008-9.

The program is a short to medium term service with a strong focus on symptom management. Although symptom management is often based on a cognitive-behavioral approach, the Companion House Early Intervention Program also employs other approaches that accord with our basic philosophy and understanding of recovery from trauma. According to this understanding, the establishment of safety is paramount as a prerequisite for rehabilitation for people who have experienced traumatic situations and are affected by traumatic stress symptoms. Therefore, EI counselling has the establishment of safety as a core aim.

3. Adults and young people

Companion House's General Service Program provides counselling and advocacy services to adults and young people. The program gives people the opportunity to explore in depth the distressing symptoms that have been troubling them, sometimes for a very long time; to process them and to alleviate their pain. There is a strong emphasis in initial stages on building safety. Often this involves working on advocacy issues also. Advocacy issues are likely to include access to social entiltements, assisting people to contact or reunite with loved ones and dealing with legal issues.

We worked with a diverse range of adults and young people in Canberra and Goulburn. We worked with people from refugee backgrounds , asylum seekers

and people with a refugee like experience. The most notable change over 2008-9 was the fast growing numbers of asylum seekers in Canberra and subsequent growth in the number of asylum seekers in the program. It is also important to note that overcrowding and homelessness continued to be a key trigger of distress for people in the program.

We worked with 198 people in this program over 2008-9.

We also provided intensive case management services to three family groups in 2008-9. This was funded as part of Complex Case Services (CCS) and enabled intensive support for people with a range of complex health needs.

Complementary Therapy

We provided Bowen Therapy and Bach Flower remedies to newly arrived people and longer term settlers to assist people manage physical pain and distress. We worked with 30 people in the program over the year.

Program	Number of Clients
EI Program	200
Children	71
General Services	198
Complex Case Services	9
Complementary Therapy	30
Medical Services	508

Objective Two: Health systems are appropriate for and accessible to refugee survivors of torture and trauma

1. Medical Service

The Medical Service worked mainly with newly arrived people in their first few years in Australia. The service also worked with asylum seekers and complex cases longer term.

The medical end of the building is a hub of activity on a typical day at Companion House. Newly arrived people in their first month in Australia come for health screening and vaccinations, many of them after years of inadequate access to primary health care. The opportunity to finally have health issues fully investigated and treated is a profound part of recovery and rebuilding. Longer term settlers have the opportunity to manage chronic and complex health needs over the longer term, and asylum seekers are able to access free medical care.

The service provided four GP sessions a week, coordination, referral, nursing and outreach services for vulnerable patients. An important achievement over 2008-9 was the establishment of a full time Practice Nurse position, funded by ACT Health. This new position has greatly enhanced the service's capacity and quality.

The service also did a substantial amount of advocacy on issues such as ensuring interpreter use and bulk billing in key health services. The service also trained medical students with a particular interest in refugee health. In addition, the service also completed full computerisation and finished drafts of new clinical and administrative policies and protocols over the year.

Over the 2008-9 year the medical service provided General Practice and nursing services to 508 people. The numbers in the service have more than doubled over the last three years. This is a direct result of the shortage of primary health care in the ACT. Whilst our service used to refer most newly arrived patients to a community GP after 12 months, we now struggle to find referral points for our patients.

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

1. Training

Training programs focused on promoting an understanding of the refugee experience and building skills in working with survivors of torture and trauma. We facilitated 49 training sessions with a total 0f 601 participants over 2008-9. Sessions were delivered to a wide range of agencies, including Canberra Institute of Technology, Goulburn TAFE, schools, hospitals, police, community services and Care and Protection.

Sessions were very well evaluated and we were most impressed by the level of interest and commitment from agencies to attend sessions.

Feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive. In evaluations for example they have described sessions as "well presented

and thought provoking" (Tuggeranong Intensive English Centre), "extremely useful", "a fantastic opportunity" (Goulburn TAFE), and recommended that "all community organisations should have this training" (Barnados).

2. Advocacy

We provided policy advice and systemic advocacy on a wide range of national and local issues. These included Care and Protection issues for families, settlement issues in Goulburn, interpreter use in service agencies, needs of refugee children in schools, lack of available childcare, housing issues and maternal and child issues. As a member of the Forum of Australian Services for Survivors of Torture and Trauma (FASSTT) and the ACT Asylum Seekers Network (ACTASN) we also participated in submissions and policy advice on national issues such as complementary protection and other migration review processes.

We started two new working groups to address the growing numbers of asylum seekers in the ACT and the impact of a lack of affordable housing on newly arrived people. The first group was the ACT Refugee Housing Working Group. The second was the ACT Asylum Seekers Network (ACTASN). We provided secretariat and coordination services to support the groups. Both groups have been very productive collaborative efforts in 2008-9.

Many staff also worked hard to increase individuals' access to service systems and entitlements, particularly Counsellor/Advocates and the medical team.

3. Community Awareness

Once again, the most important contribution to building a welcoming community for refugees was the organisation of a soccer tourmanament with the Sudanese, Sierra Leone, Mon and Karen communities. This event not only allows communities to showcase their sporting skills to the community at large but also builds links and friendships within and between the communities involved. The 2009 soccer day was held in the rain but was nonetheless the most friendly and vibrant tournament yet.

We also visited and spoke to a broad range of community groups and agencies about the achievements of individuals and communites from refugee backgrounds over the year.

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

1. Community Development

Companion House staff worked with communities to build community capacity across a range of key areas. We carried this out in close cooperation with community leaders and interpreters. Key communities were the Sierra Leone, Sudanese, Karen, Mon and Chin communities. Most weekends in 2008-9 saw Companion House working with community groups on a variety of issues. This was inspiring work, drawing out the great strengths and skills of communities. It was also bright and vibrant, often involving a combination of discussion, food, dance or sport.

a. Health promotion

In 2008-9 we continued two projects focused on health promotion. The Healthy Communities project focused of health promotion with adults and included a broad range of healthy living activities, including a focus on nutrition, hydration, dance and sport , with new and emerging communities. The Young Men Growing Project focused on sport and dance activities with young African men. We worked with the Sudanese, Sierra Leone and Karen communities across these projects in 2008-9, with over 150 people attending activities.

b. Parenting and Cultural Transitions

The Sharing and Learning Project worked with parents of small children from the Sudanese, Chin and Karen communities over the year. The project works with communities to build skills and capacity in cultural transition, parenting and encourages greater access to mainstream services. Many discussion forums and activities brought communities together to learn from each other and gain new skills to navigate this new context as parents. Over 100 people across communities attended activities.

The Mon Community in Transition Project (MICT) worked with the Mon community to respond to early year issues, navigate and influence service systems and make cultural transitions as parents. 2008-9 was the final year of this three year project. The project successfully built new skills and strengthened the capacity of both families and the Mon community.

The project was a strong partnership between the Australia-Mon Association and Companion House, which was a highly successful collaboration.

Excerpt from final MICT report

The MICT project evolved through the years of close collaboration between Companion House and the Mon community and was a strongly community-owned process. The project model came from the expressed needs and ideas of parents and community members. This was only possible because of strong relationships between community leaders and Companion House staff and particularly the employment of bicultural workers to facilitate the project. In fact, much of this project's achievement is due to the unerring enthusiasm and energy of bicultural workers. High participation and numerous concrete results in all areas of the project are the proof that this model provides long-term results for parents in cultural transition.

The project built a range of new skills and knowledge in the navigation of services and systems, parenting skills, making cultural transitions, and building employment and training pathways. In addition we saw a new focus on building healthy lifestyles. The project also built the capacity and profile of the community and assisted to develop self-support mechanisms, providing for the sustainability of the project results.

Project strategies fell on fertile ground in this bright and highly motivated community. It was not an expensive project and illustrates a sustainable and highly constructive model for refugee communities of a similar profile.

c. Community capacity building

All the projects described above had a strong focus on building commmunity capacity and skills. We ran sessions on cultural transition in addition to the projects described above and worked on governance issues with community associations from new and emerging communities.

d. Employment

Companion House ran a small employment pilot initiative in 2008-9. Five men from the Mon and Karen communities were supported by Companion House to undertake traineeships in a variety of industries. Most of this activity was carried out in partnership with Construction, Industry and Employment Association (CITEA). CITEA showed a firm commitment to making this initiative a success and was flexible and supportive wherever possible.

e. Dinka Folktales from Sudan

In 2008-9 we finshed the lovely Dinka Folktales from Sudan story book and audio DVD. The stories came from local Dinka women and were illustrated by Dinka children. The book and DVD revived cherished stories and traditions which have been disrupted by war and diaspora. The wit and wisdom of the stories provide a bridge between the past and present. Importantly, it was also a gift from the Dinka community to the Australian community at large. The book and DVD were launched by the Chief Minister with the St George's Anglican Church Dinka congregation in February 2009.

2. Living support

a. Direct Financial Support

We provided $10,050 of emergency relief payments to assist and manage financial distress on 68 occasions. In addition, we spent $8936 of donated funds on support for people to gain drivers licences, access migration support, run sporting and recreational events, buy text books and pay other study related expenses.

b. Refugee Transitonal Housing Program(RTHP)

The Refugee Transitional Housing Program is a tripartite agreement between CatholicCare, ACT Housing and Companion House. The Program provides transitional housing for newly arrived people in their first six months in Australia. Over 2008-9 ACT housing provided 10 houses to the program. CatholicCare provided tenancy management, case management and exit planning with people eligible for the Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Scheme (IHSS). Companion House provided case management and exit planning for asylum seekers in the program.

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

Companion house 'opted in" to the ACT Human Rights Act in 2009. We were the first organisation in the ACT to voluntarily request that we be considered an agency covered by the Act. We did this to confirm

our commitment to human rights and human rights legislation. We also strengthened the human rights elements of our training programs in 2008-9.

Objective Six: Our organisation is well governed and managed and has strong relationships with and understanding of communities affected by torture and trauma, and other Forum of Services for Survivors of Torture and Trauma (FASSTT) agencies

Companion House carried out strategic planning over 2008-9 and revisited and amended our three year strategic plan. We also carried out annual planning with Board and staff early in the financial year and reporting and analyis of progess at the end of the year. We successfully met the great majority of the targets we set ourselves in this process. This included, regaining funding to maintain activity in the Commmunity Development Team, finalising implementation of computerisation of the medical service, building a new database and entering years of data, updating key policies and procedures and implementation of new projects. We continued to implement national standards and the national minimum data set and remained actively involved in the Forum of Australian Services for Survivors of Torture and Trauma (FASSTT).

Thankyou

In recognition to the many friends and donors who worked with us over the year.

With special thanks to:

- Blackmores for substantial donations of vitamins
- Professor Martin Richardson for hours of volunteer work on the Dinka folktales book and DVD
- Peter Kuot for providing the Dinka voice on the Dinka Folktales DVD
- Oliver family for generous donations
- Clayton Utz for pro bono legal services
- The many interpreters who go well beyond the call of duty in their work , with particular thanks to Abuk Ayom and Abuk Dau Atem.
- Peter Steele, Sister Pat Sealey, Hugh Ford and Jennifer Tode for migration services.
- Chris Koelmeyer for donated services
- Wyeth Consumer Healthcare for donations
- Northside Road Ready Centre for donations
- Mark Carrol for assistance to the Karen community
- Pastor Cung in Goulburn for facilitating partnerships between Companion House and the Chin community
- Shin Thu Gay for facilitating partnerships between Companion House and the Karen community
- Joseph O'Phelan and Anne Gunn for providing free translations to asylum seekers
- The following people and organisations for assistance with World Refugee Soccer: Graceman Abakah, Richard Browning and Radford College, the Australian Institute of Sport, Ben Jongsmar Rocco Weglarz, Kaleen Sports Club,Bill O'Rourke, Matthew Pilkinton, Emmett Richardson and Canberra Milk.
- Jennifer Thompson for great assistance with health promotion













2009 Soccer Tournament

1: The Mon Team: Playing Hard

2: The Karen Team: Best Team Players

3: The Sudanese team :Valiant

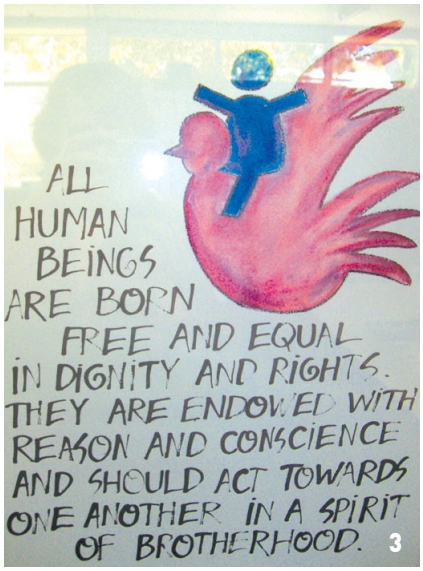
4: The West African Team: Champions

5: Fun game between Chin players from Goulburn and Sudanese and West African players from Canberra

6: Considerable skill and sportsmanship was evident throughout the day









1: Newly arrived children at Lake Burely Griffin

2: James Mayen facilitating training

3: UN Declaration of Human rights displayed at Companion House

4: Companion House staff present the Construction, Industry, Training and Employment Association (CITEA) with a certificate of thanks for their efforts to provide construction traineeships to newly arrived people from the Mon and Karen communities

Companion House Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2009

Directors Report

The Board of Directors present their report together with the financial report of Companion House (the Association) for the year ended 30 June 2009 and auditors report thereon.

Board of Directors

The names of the members of the Board of Directors throughout the period and at the date of this report are:

D. Habel J. Hurley

C. Keil G. Hunt

K. Ragless H. Cory

S. Singh (resigned June 2009) L. McLaughlin (Commenced November 2008)

Board Members have been in office since the start of the period to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

Results

The profit of the Association for the period amounted to $38,996 (2008 – profit of $9,425).

Review of Operations

The Association continued to engage in its principal activity, the results of which are disclosed in the attached financial report.

Significant Changes in the State of Affairs

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the period.

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 period.

After Balance Date Events

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the period which significantly affected or may significantly 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.

Directors Report (continued)

Environmental Issues

The Association's operations are not regulated by any significant environmental regulation under a law of the Commonwealth or of a State or Territory.

Indemnification of Officer

No indemnities have been given or insurance premiums paid, during or since the end of the period, for any person who is or has been an officer or auditor of the Association.

Proceedings on Behalf of the Association

No person has applied for leave of Court to bring proceedings on behalf of the Association or intervene in any proceedings to which the Association is a party for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the Association for all or any part of those proceedings.

The Association was not a party to any such proceedings during the year.

Auditor's Independence Declaration

Section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001 required the Association's auditors, DJ Weekes and Co Pty Ltd, to provide the Directors with an Independence Declaration in relation to the review of the financial report. The Independence Declaration forms part of the financial report.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors:

.....	.....
D. Habel Chair	C. Keil Treasurer

Dated this ..... day of October 2009.

Independent Audit Report

To the Members of Companion House

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Companion House (the association), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2009, and the income statement for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the Board of Director's declaration.

Board of Director's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The directors of the association are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of the financial report are appropriate to meet the financial reporting requirements of the association's constitution and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The director's responsibilities also include establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the association's financial reporting under the constitution. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

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

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

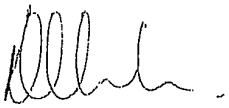
Independent Audit Report

To the Members of Companion House

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects the financial position of Companion House as of 30 June 2009 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

DJ Weekes & Co Pty Ltd
Chartered Accountants
211 George Street, Bathurst NSW 2795



DJ Weekes Mbus FCA
Registered Auditor

Dated this 15th day of October 2009

Auditor's Independence Declaration

for the year ended 30 June 2009

To the Members of Companion House:

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, in relation to the audit of Companion House for the year ended 30 June 2009 there have been no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

DJ Weekes & Co Pty Ltd
Chartered Accountants
211 George Street, Bathurst NSW 2795



DJ Weekes Mbus FCA
Registered Auditor

Dated this 15th day of October 2009

Income Statement

for the year ended 30 June 2009

	Notes	2009 $	2008 $
Revenue		**1,233,169**	1,069,328
Employee Benefits Expense		**879,959**	792,846
Depreciation		**18,519**	19,027
Other Expenses		**295,695**	248,030
Profit before Income Tax		**38,996**	9,425
Income Tax Expense		**-**	-
Profit from Operations		**38,996**	9,425

Balance Sheet

As at 30 June 2009

	Notes	2009 $	2008 $
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	2	**237,016**	148,169
Receivables	3	**103,012**	171,134
Investments	4	**20,749**	19,463
Other Assets	5	**1,250**	-
Total Current Assets		**362,027**	338,765
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	6	**61,681**	64,883
Total Non-Current Assets		**61,681**	64,883
Total Assets		**423,708**	403,648
Current Liablities			
Creditors and accruals		**56,716**	57,599
Grants paid in advance		**6,190**	52,878
Provisions	7A	**74,818**	56,786
Total Current Liabilities		**137,724**	167,262
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions	7B	**23,195**	19,755
Other	8	**59,972**	52,810
Total Non-Current Liabilities		**83,167**	72,565
Total Liabilities		**220,891**	239,827
Net Assets		**202,817**	163,821
Members' Funds			
Accumulated surplus		**202,817**	163,821
Toyal Members' Funds		**202,817**	163,821

Cash Flow Statement

for the year ended 30 June 2009

	Notes	2009 $	2008 $
Cash Flows From Operating Activities			
Cash Received			
Grants & Medical Programs received		**1,219,260**	1,053,891
Interest received		**9,779**	11,229
Other Income		**29,278**	12,954
Total Cash Received		**1,258,317**	1,078,074
Payments			
Payments to suppliers		**(293,759)**	(247,070)
Payments to employees		**(858,487)**	(792,056)
Total Payments		**(1,152,246)**	(1,039,126)
Net Cash from Operating Activities		**106,071**	38,948
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Proceeds from sales of plant and equipment		**24,090**	11,818
Payments for purchases of plant and equipment		**(41,314)**	(24,321)
Net Cash from Investing Activities		**(17,224)**	(12,503)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		**88,847**	26,445
Cash at beginning of the financial year		**148,169**	121,724
Cash at end of the financial year		**237,016**	148,169

Statement of Appropriations

for the year ended 30 June 2009

	Note	**2009** $	2008 $
Accumulated Surplus - Beginning of Year		**163,821**	154,396
Profit before Income Tax		**38,996**	9,425
Income Tax		**-**	-
Profit after Income Tax		**38,996**	9,425
Accumulated Surplus at 30 June 2009		**202,817**	163,821

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2009

1 **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

This financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views and other authoritive pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the requirements of the ACT Associations Incorporations Act 1991. The financial report is prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where 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 is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the Association in the preparation of the financial report:

(a) Depreciation of Non-current assets

Non-current assets are carried at cost and are depreciated on the straight line basis at rates considered adequate to write off over their estimated useful lives.

(b) Employee Benefits

The amount expected to be paid to employees for their entitlements to annual leave and long sservice 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.

(d) Revaluation of Non-current assets

The carrying amount of non-current assets is reviewed annually by the directors to ensure that it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from those assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows which will be received from the assets employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have not been discounted to their present values in determining recoverable amounts.

(e) Economic Dependency

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

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2009

	2009 $	2008 $
2. Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash at bank	**237,016**	148,169
3. Receivables		
Sundry debtors	**103,012**	171,134
4. Investments		
CPS Investment	**20,749**	19,463
5. Other Assets		
Prepayments	**1,250**	-
6. Property, Plant and Equipment		
Plant & equipment at cost	**47,607**	47,607
Plant & equipment accumulated depreciation	**(37,013)**	(31,745)
	10,594	15,862
Building improvements at cost	**1,275**	1,275
Building improvements accumulated depreciation	**(547)**	(466)
	728	809
Motor vehicles at cost	**62,786**	62,813
Motor vehicles accumulated depreciation	**(12,427)**	(14,601)
	50,359	48,212
Total Property, Plant and equipment	**61,681**	64,883

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2009

	2009 $	2008 $
7. Provisions		
7A. Current		
Annual leave	**74,818**	56,786
Long service leave	**-**	-
	74,818	56,786
7B. Non-Current		
Long service leave	**23,195**	19,755
	23,195	19,755
8. Other Liabilities		
Hire Purchase Loans	**59,972**	52,810

Statement by Directors

for the year ended 30 June 2009

The Board of Directors has determined that Companion House is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Board as set out in the accompanying financial report;

1. Presents a true an fair view of the financial position of Companion House as at 30 June 2009 and its performance for the year ended on that date.

2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe Companion House will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board and is signed for and on behalf of the Board by:

.....
Director

.....
Director

Dated this ..... day of October 2009.

Information for the Members

On the 2009 Financial Statements

Detailed Income Statement

DISCLAIMER

The additional financial information presented on the following pages is in accordance with the books and records of Companion House which have been subject to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the association for the year ended 30 June 2009.

It will be appreciated that our audit did not cover all details of the additional financial information. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on such financial information and no warranty of accuracy or reliability is given.

In accordance with our firm policy, we advise that neither the firm nor any member or employee of the firm undertakes responsibility arising in any way whatsoever to any person (other than the company) in respect of the additional financial information, including any errors or omissions therein, arising through negligence or otherwise however caused.

Weekes & Co Pty Ltd
Chartered Accountants

DJ Weekes
Director

211 George Street
Bathurst, NSW, 2795

Dated this 15th day of October 2009.

Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement

for the year ended 30 June 2009

	2009	2008
	$	$
Income		
Grants	**$1,011,954**	$905,829
Medical Program	**$180,872**	$137,720
Other Income	**$40,343**	$25,781
Total income	**$1,233,169**	$1,069,330
Expenses		
Operational expenses	**$314,214**	$267,060
Employment expenses	**$879,959**	$792,846
Total	**$1,194,173**	$1,059,906
Net Surplus/ (Deficit)	**$38,996**	$9,424