COMPANION HOUSE

Assisting Survivors of Torture and Trauma



ANNUAL REPORT

2010-11

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Companion House Assisting Survivors of Torture and Trauma Inc.
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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 - Helen Cory
Secretary - Jennifer Hurley
Treasurer - Michael Brown
Members - Jackie Wenner, Ibi Losoncz, Liz Sturgiss, Cat Argall, Brooke McKail (to February 2011), Henry Addison (from June 2011) and Clare Doube (non-voting)

STAFF

Director: Clare Doube

Counselling Team:
Team Leader - Elizabeth Price/Ina Susjlik
Counsellor/Advocate - Children - Deborah Nelson
Counsellor/Advocate - Early Intervention - Fiona Delacy/Liz Morillas
Counsellor/Advocate - Early Intervention - Jeby Jose
Counsellor/Advocate - General Services (young people and adults) - Robin Alderson Smith

Community Development Team:
Team Leader - Vesna Golic
Project Officer - Hongsar Channaibanya
Project Officer - Sandra Lloyd

Medical Team
Practice Nurse - Tuija Kamppi
Medical Coordinator - Silvia Salas Meyer
Clinical Director - Dr Christine Phillips
GP - Dr Katrina Anderson
GP - Dr Joo-Inn Chew
GP - Dr James Eldridge
GP - Dr Alex Stevenson
GP - Dr Danielle Butler
GP - Dr Bethan McDonald

Training, Advocacy and Community Awareness
Team Leader/Trainer - Glenn Flanagan
Trainer/Bi-cultural worker - James Atem Mayen

Complex Case Services
Pam Mitchell
Jennifer Tode

Migration Advice
Jennifer Tode
Perminder Bhatia (to November 2010)
Carly Saeedi (from May 2011)

Administrative Team
Administrative and Reception Coordinators - Loan Freeman and Sai Maung
Finance Officer - Gen Jones
IT Support - Eric Warner from Epi Media

FUNDING
In addition to donations gratefully received from many individuals, we acknowledge the following organisations for their financial support:

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

Commonwealth Department of Immigration and Citizenship - short-term torture and trauma counselling and community awareness, Immigration Advice and Application Assistance Service (IAAAS) and Complex Case Services

Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs - Emergency Relief, Sharing and Learning project, Mon Community in Cultural Transition project and IT upgrade grant

ACT Government Health Directorate - counselling, primary health services and health promotion project

ACT Government Community Services Directorate - children's program, community development program, Sudanese Women's Dancing Group project, intergenerational relations project, and long-service leave transition grant

Canberra Institute of Technology - website upgrade grant.

Partners and Alliances

ACT Dental Program
ACT Division of General Practice
ACTCOSS
Adult Migrant English Program
Australia-Karen Organisation of the ACT
Australia Mon Association Inc
Belconnen Child and Family Centre
Calvary Refugee Mentoring Program
Canberra Multicultural Communities Forum
Canberra Refugee Support
Canberra Sierra Leone Association
Capital Careers
Capital Medical Supplies
Capital Pathology
CatholicCare
Chin Community Goulburn
Dickson College Secondary Introductory English Centre
Dinka congregation at St Georges Anglican Church
Forum of Australian Services for Survivors of Torture and Trauma (FASSTT)
Goulburn Multicultural Centre
Gungahlin Child and Family Centre
Housing ACT
Institute of Child Protection Studies, Australian Catholic University
Interchange General Practice
International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims
Migrant and Refugee Settlement Service of the ACT
Multicultural Women Advocacy
Multicultural Youth Service
National Capital Diagnostic Imaging
North Ainslie Primary Introductory English Centre
Northside Community Service
Red Cross
Refugee Council of Australia
Sexual Health and Family Planning
Spectacle Subsidy Scheme
St John the Apostle Refugee Resettlement Committee
St Vincent de Paul
Sudanese Australia Community Association
Translating and Interpreting Service
Tuggeranong Child and Family Centre
West Belconnen Health Co-op
YWCA Canberra

From the Chairperson

2010 – 2011 has been another productive year for Companion House: a year of strong partnerships with government agencies, non-government agencies, charitable organisations and community networks.

The Board ensures our organisation achieves its aims and meets its objectives. We are fortunate to have Board members with managerial, medical, legal, educational, policy and administrative skills and knowledge.

Our success as an organisation is largely influenced by the input of our professional, hard-working and committed staff. Clare Doube, our Acting Director while Kathy Ragless has been on leave, has brought high level skills and expertise to the position. During the year, we farewelled Robin Alderson-Smith after 11 years of service to our clients as a Counsellor.

Staff have secured grants of financial assistance for ongoing and new initiatives. Thanks to our very competent Treasurer, Michael Brown, for his capable management of our finances.

The Board and staff have worked well together with social and community events such as Aquaculture in January, World Refugee Day Soccer Tournament in June (this year at Cook Oval) and the Governor-General's unveiling of the International Women's Day quilt also in June.

Our annual fund-raising dinner will be held at the National Press Club on 23 September 2011 with Julian Burnside QC as our guest speaker. Many thanks to Liz Sturgiss, Jennifer Hurley, Catherine Argall and Henry Addison for their organisation of this event.

Thank you to all our clients, staff, board members, members and volunteers for your contributions and support over the year. We look forward to another year of serving and celebrating.

Helen Cory
Chair of the Board

From the Director

It's been another exciting year at Companion House – a year of consolidation and expansion. New areas of work include the Immigration Advice and Application Assistance Service which now provides much-needed migration services to asylum seekers; and piloting community development approaches to support strong intergenerational relations. Towards the end of the year, ACT also started to host asylum seekers living in community detention and so our services are now responding to welcome them into our circle.

In other areas, we consolidated existing areas of work including restructuring the counselling team to respond most effectively to needs in helping adults and children on their recovery and settlement journey. Our training to mainstream services continued to expand with 80 sessions delivered during the year, including a new initiative of fee-for-service cross-cultural training.

The Medical Service continued to stretch very limited resources to cope with ever-increasing client numbers, while also strengthening the service – including finalising Clinical Guidelines this year. We also continued to provide complementary therapy, intensive case support to families facing complex situations, and a variety of activities with communities and their leaders to assist people in the transition to life in Australia.

Amid all of these programs, we also found time for some exciting events, particularly during Refugee Week. On Refugee Day, the Governor General joined us for afternoon tea to unveil a beautiful quilt that a group of women had been working on since International Women's Day – make sure you look for the quilt next time you visit our office.

This year we hosted our annual Refugee Day Soccer Tournament at the oval by our office in Cook – hundreds of people braved the cold to join us in cheering on the soccer teams, lots of fun and games in the kids' activities and a sausage sizzle to keep us warm. And the third event for the week was the launch at Parliament House of a new report about the Forum of Australian Services for Survivors of Torture and Trauma called *From the Darkness to the Light*. This publication gives an overview of our work and is available on our website or from the office.

Our advocacy has continued apace throughout the year and we're hopeful that there may very soon be progress on an ACT policy ensuring access to services for asylum seekers living in the community.

These activities are only possible with the support of and connections with many partners. Most importantly this includes the clients we work with – individuals, families, communities and leaders who show such courage and resilience and contribute so much to our service and to the wider community. In addition, other agencies that we partner with, particularly noting their willingness to adapt their services to the needs of our clients. Our thanks also go to our members and Board, and to funders whose ongoing support is essential to our work. I would also like to pay tribute to the fantastic staff team, whose skills, commitment, compassion and professionalism make Companion House the organisation that it is, and who assist so many in the community.

My time at Companion House will be ending in October 2011 when Kathy Ragless returns from maternity leave, with not just a baby but also a well-deserved Order of Australia for service to the community! Thank you to everyone for your support in my year and a half at Companion House – it has been a privilege to be part of the organisation and I look forward to watching Companion House continue to go from strength to strength.

Clare Doube
Director

Reports

This report on our activities for the year is structured according to the goals in our 2008-11 strategic plan:

Goal One: Survivors of torture and trauma heal and rehabilitate from emotional and psychological pain

The establishment of safety is a core aim of our work with people who have sought refuge in Australia from persecution, torture and war-related trauma. Counselling, advocacy and complementary therapy continue to be important contributions in this area. We work with people of all ages and cultural backgrounds, including those who have just arrived in Australia and those who have been here for some years. Our counselling program works with refugees and asylum seekers and towards the end of the 2010-11 financial year, this started to include asylum seekers clients who are in the ACT in community detention arrangements administered by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC).

Funding for our counselling team changed during the 2010-11 year as the funding allocation for counselling for survivors of torture and trauma who are newly arrived in Australia moved from DIAC to the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA). We are pleased to now be working with DoHA on a consolidated PASTT program that flexibly supports our client group no matter how long they have been in Australia. Funding changes led to a restructure of the counselling team, which has now been comfortably bedded down and the counselling team is in good shape to take forward their work in the ACT and Goulburn.

Newly arrived people

Companion House's Early Intervention Program works with newly arrived humanitarian entrants. In the first part of the year, this work formed part of the Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Scheme (IHSS). The IHSS, however, finished in April 2011 and since then Companion House has continued to work with new arrivals, now funded by DoHA, rather than DIAC.

This year in this program we worked with 185 people, who came from 17 countries. Afghanistan, Burma, Democratic Republic of Congo and Sri Lanka were common countries of origin. We worked across the region, including with a number of new arrivals in Goulburn.
The Early Intervention Program assesses psychosocial needs, in close cooperation with the Medical Service's assessment of primary health needs, and offers short term counselling and support. We wish all new arrivals all the very best for their settlement in Australia.

Adults and young people

Our General Service Program provides counselling and advocacy services to adults and young people over the age of 15. In 2010-11, we worked with 150 clients in this program - people from refugee backgrounds, asylum seekers and people with a refugee like experience.

This program gives people the opportunity to explore painful issues and symptoms that have been concerning them, to process these and to alleviate their distress. Advocacy is an important complement to counselling services, and often involves supporting clients to access social entitlements, reunite with family or deal with legal issues.

As part of Complex Case Services (CCS), we also provided intensive case management services to 5 families during the year, assisting 24 people. This consists of short-term intensive support for people with a range of complex needs.

Children

During the 2010-11 year we worked with 91 children in our Children's Program. This program works with children and young people individually, in family settings, in groups and in schools. Activities include: assessment and activity programs during each school holidays, play therapy individually and in groups, and support to parents and carers. A lot of effort was also spent on engagement with schools, including liaison with schools and families, and supporting schools to understand the impact of torture and trauma on children and their recovery needs. This work aims to help children and their families come to terms with past experience and adjust to their new life in Australia.

A new initiative this year has been a collaboration with the community development team on health promotion with children in school, which is described in more detail under Goal Two.

Complementary Therapy

Our Complementary Therapy program assists people to manage physical and emotional pain

and distress, particularly through Bowen Therapy and Bach Flower remedies. The program operates one day per week and during the year, we worked with 31 people.

Companion House Clients	
Program	**Number of Clients**
EIP Program	185
Children	91
General Services	150
Complex Case Services	5
Complementary Therapy	31
Medical Services	475

Goal Two: Survivors of torture and trauma maximise their physical health.

Medical Service
Companion House's Medical Service works 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. A particular achievement this year was the adoption of Clinical Guidelines for the service, which will assist new doctors joining the clinic and help us ensure consistency of service.

We have more than 700 current clients in the Medical Service and during this year we worked with 475 of them. We aim to be a transition service for new arrivals for their first year in Australia but often struggle to find GPs for referral. Our client numbers have therefore continued to expand, even though our funding has stayed steady. Numbers are further expanding with asylum seekers in community detention arriving in the ACT and so great effort is being placed on finding appropriate community GPs where we can transfer clients after their initial time with us.

This year, our Medical Service provided GP and Registered Nurse services four days a week. This includes conducting health screening and primary health care such as vaccinations when people first arrive in Australia. We also work with people over a longer period to help them manage chronic and complex health needs. Our clinic also provides a range of referral, coordination and outreach services to ensure clients can access other health and allied services in the ACT. This is supported by our Memoranda of Understanding with other services including dental, pathology and diagnostic imaging.

Health promotion
In early 2011, our Community Development team started collaboration with the Children's program on health promotion in schools. This project called "Healthy Start in Our New Home" will run during 2011 and is a group program focused on healthy nutrition. Sessions involve introducing students to some healthy foods, cooking together, and discussions of healthy eating habits, including the importance of eating breakfast. Importantly, the program includes children's families who participate with their children in some sessions. In this way the program supports schools and families to work together in helping to maintain healthy lifestyles.

During the year we also sourced funding for new health promotion activities in communities from refugee backgrounds. From July 2011 we look forward to implementing two new multi-year projects: one on health promotion with women; and another on nurturing wellbeing.

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

Training
Part of our work is to support and build the capacity of mainstream services to work with our client group. This includes training sessions to increase understanding of the refugee experience and build skills in working with survivors of torture and trauma. During the 2010-11 year, we facilitated 80 training sessions with a total of 1,197 participants from government and community agencies in Canberra and Goulburn. We would like to thank them all for their time and interest, and their commitment to improving the services they provide to people from a refugee background.

We have continued to seek feedback from participants to inform changes to the training. Examples include: describing one-day workshops as "excellent" and "very comprehensive and well planned" (Housing and Care and Protection staff); "was well balanced – case studies, facts and definitions and strategies" and "thoroughly enjoyed the workshop, facilitators were very

inclusive, respectful, knowledgeable" (after a workshop focused on young people); and that facilitators were "very clear and very open to conversation and questions" (medical and nursing students).

Two innovations during the year were: the roll-out of fee-for-service cross-cultural training available to organisations at very reasonable rates; and the development of a training calendar of sessions held at Companion House, in addition to the sessions we run at organisations. Both have been great additions to our training repertoire.

Advocacy
Advocacy can be important to bring about change at a variety of levels. Our advocacy includes at the individual level (staff members advocating for clients to access services and entitlements) and at the systemic level (advocating for changes to policies, programs and systems, which is informed by monitoring experience with services).

At the systemic level in the ACT, we focused on some specific issues. We have been pleased to note an increase in use of interpreters by Care and Protection staff (a key point of our submission and follow up meetings) - we'd like to congratulate them on this as it makes such a difference to people's engagement with a service that can often seem intimidating. We continue to press Care and Protection for other changes, including on foster and respite care.

Likewise, a positive initiative has been the Education Department's development of guidelines on the use of psychometric testing which we raised in our submission and meetings. We continue to work with Education on other areas, including trying to increase use of interpreters when schools engage with families.

The third major area of focus has been in collaboration with ACT Asylum Seekers Network (ACTASN). We have been calling on the ACT Government to ensure access to services for asylum seekers and have seen some progress – we're hopeful of a policy announcement on this topic in the coming months.

Other advocacy we have contributed to includes related to housing (as part of the ACT Housing Working Group), and national submissions prepared by our network, the Forum of Australian Services for Survivors of Torture and Trauma (FASSTT).

Community Awareness
This year we hosted our annual Refugee Day Soccer Tournament at the oval by our office in Cook. Six teams from Canberra and Goulburn participated - Chin, Karen, Liberian, Mon, Sierra Leone and South Sudan – and newly independent South Sudan was victorious! Despite the cold weather, it was a lovely day with kids' activities, a sausage sizzle and lots of opportunities to build friendships and links while admiring the sporting prowess.

We also continue to engage with the wider Australian community to increase understanding and build a welcoming environment for refugees. We spoke at many community events, including many Refugee Week events, conferences such as the ACTCOSS conference, and community gatherings such as an anniversary memorial of the sinking of the SIEV X. In a variety of ways we sought to highlight the achievements and contributions of people from refugee backgrounds.

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

Community Development
We work with a number of refugee communities to facilitate links, draw out the considerable strengths and skills within the community and to assist people as they transition to life in Australia. We had an unexpected drop in funding at the start of the financial year; but by being flexible and innovative we managed to maintain a very full range of activities including piloting a new area of work. We also spent considerable time fundraising for the new year and are pleased to be going into 2011-12 with a return to full programs and increased staffing.

This year, we particularly worked with people from the Chin, Karen, Mon, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Tamil and Hazara communities. We worked with approximately 340 women, men, young people and children. This work is only possible through the ongoing support and guidance from leaders of each community and we would like to thank them for their efforts and contributions to their community on top of their many other commitments.

Community exchange and capacity building
All our community development work has a strong focus on strengthening community capacity and skills. Building on the success of the Community Exchange Forum in May 2010 which brought together leaders and representatives from a number of refugee communities, during the 2010-11 year, we facilitated a series of exchanges for smaller groups of community leaders on issues such as: leading and governing a successful community, advocating for better service to community needs and linking the community to services, with a number of guest speakers involved.

In May 2011 we held another successful Community Exchange Forum. Around 60 representatives of Mon, Karen, Chin, Sudanese and Hazara communities exchanged their experiences and ideas on topics such as: role of a community in maintaining cultural identity and passing it to younger generations, supporting men and women in cultural transition and creating spaces for groups of men and groups of women from different communities to socialise and learn from each other.

These activities were closely linked to other work with community associations throughout the year, including helping with: preparing fundraising proposals, organising events, the formation of subsections in the communities like the Mon Women's Association, as well as helping communities' advocacy efforts. We also facilitated activities to support dancing, cooking and cultural heritage for women from South Sudan.

Linking to mainstream services
Just as we provide support to mainstream services so they are more confident to work effectively with our client group, we also work with communities of people from refugee backgrounds to build their understanding and comfort in accessing these services. This year we gave special emphasis on linking communities with Child and Family Centres in Belconnen, Gungahlin and Tuggeranong. These Centres represent an important resource as they serve as a one-stop shop in which communities and families can receive varied support.

Parenting and Cultural Transition
Another aspect of our community development work relates to cultural transition to life in Australia, with a particular focus on parenting in the new context. During this year we had two projects in this area - Sharing and Learning, and Mon in Cultural Transition – which will be rolled together into one program from July 2011. Through this program, families have the opportunity to learn from each other and from our community development workers regarding parenting skills that are effective in the new cultural context, and to build mutual support networks.

Intergenerational relations
For the first half of 2011 we piloted a new area of work that aimed to support communities in strengthening bonds across the generations. This was a vibrant and dynamic new area of work, with a range of exciting activities. These varied from large events bringing together many from the community, to smaller activities that brought together fathers and sons, or mothers and daughters.

One activity started on International Women's Day, bringing together women from refugee communities and the wider Australian community for a series of exchanges on topics such as parenting teenagers. As part of this activity, women brought pieces of fabric of personal importance to them which they developed into a quilt to celebrate 100 years of International Women's Day. This beautiful quilt was unveiled by the Governor General on World Refugee Day and is now on display at the Cook Community Hub.

Living support
Direct Financial Support
During the year we spent $12,924 on direct financial support to people in need. This included $9,568 of emergency relief vouchers to assist people in financial distress – this was provided on 240 occasions throughout the year. In addition, fundraising events combined with donations from our members and supporters ensured that we could provide $3,356 in additional support to individuals and communities. This covered a range of support, including for migration advice and to organise cultural events.

Refugee Transitional Housing Program (RTHP)
The Refugee Transitional Housing Program has been a tripartite agreement between CatholicCare, ACT Housing and Companion House, providing up to 14 transitional housing for newly arrived people. CatholicCare provided tenancy management, case management and exit planning with people eligible for the IHSS; and Companion House provided case management and exit planning for asylum seekers in the program.

With the end of the IHSS in April 2011, this agreement ended; however we are in discussions with ACT Housing and the new settlement service provider, the Migrant and Refugee Settlement Service (MARSS), to continue the arrangement and expect this to be finalised early in the new financial year.

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

We continue to ensure that human rights principles are at the core of our work. As the first organisation to voluntarily "opt in" to being covered by the ACT Human Rights Act, we have an added responsibility to ensure that our services comply with human rights standards. We are also encouraging other organisations to opt into the Human Rights Act. Many of our advocacy activities, such as advocating for asylum seekers' access to ACT Government services have a strong human rights basis.

Companion House has subsidised migration advice for clients in need for some years, but previously has not had the resources to provide an ongoing service in this area. However this year we commenced providing the Immigration Advice and Application Assistance Service (IAAAS), a DIAC-funded program. This new program means that asylum seekers can receive professional help from registered migration agents for their protection visa application at no cost. The program also provides some limited help for clients seeking to reunite with family.

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

To be able to deliver services to our clients, it's important that we maintain a strong, healthy organisation. During the year we have done this in a number of ways.

We have settled into our new office in Cook, upgraded our equipment, including new computers and a new website, and continued to strengthen internal systems and procedures, including adopting Clinical Guidelines for the Medical Service. We developed a new strategic plan for the 2011-14 period and continued our ongoing annual planning and review processes. As we have sourced new funding during the year, we're in a good position to implement our planned activities for the year ahead. In addition, we have also continued to prioritise professional development and support for staff and in February 2011 held an all-staff day to reflect on the time past and refresh for the year ahead.

Consultation with the communities we work with is key to ensuring that our services are responsive to the people we serve. Our other networks in the ACT also remain strong, including participating in the ACT Office of Multicultural Affairs' Refugee, Asylum Seeker and Humanitarian Coordination Committee and the Department of Immigration's Committee on Migration Planning and Settlement Services, as well as a number of local ACT thematic-based networks. We also continue to host the ACT Asylum Seekers Network.

At a national level, our involvement in the Forum of Australian Services for Survivors of Torture and Trauma (FASSTT) remains important. This year a new FASSTT publication – From the Darkness to the Light – was launched in Canberra and we also hosted a meeting of FASSTT Directors in our new office.

In this variety of ways, we continue to strengthen our organisation and ensure we are able to conduct programs from a solid, accountable base.

Thank you

A very big thank you to the many friends and donors who have worked with us over the year. With special thanks to:

- The leaders of all the refugee communities we work with
- The wonderful volunteers supporting new arrivals, notably those working with Catholiccare, Canberra Refugee Support and St John's Kippax
- The Quilters Association of the ACT, for their collaboration on the International Women's Day quilt
- The wonderful interpreters who support us, with a special thank you to Siri Mon Chan
- The following people and organisations for assistance with the World Refugee Day Soccer Tournament:

  Australia Mon Association Inc
  Dakis Dennis
  Glenn Cummings
  Goulburn Multicultural Centre
  Gungahlin Child and Family Centre
  MLA Chris Burke
  Red Hill Church
  Rev Richard Browning and Radford College
  Richard Towle
  Senator Kate Lundy
  Tuggeranong Child and Family Centre
  United Nations High Commission for Refugees
  West Belconnen Child and Family Centre
- Null Deng for his valuable contribution to community development work through his student placement
- Students at CIT who worked with us to update our website
- Allens Arthur Robinson for providing pro bono legal advice
- Refugee Advice and Casework Service for help establishing the IAAAS in the ACT
- Canberra Times for agreeing to subsidise 3-month subscriptions for our client group, in collaboration with Canberra Refugee Support
- Jane Goffman for facilitating Companion House's involvement in AquaCulture
- Particularly generous donations from very valued supporters, including: University of Canberra's fundraising breakfast; Oliver family; CIT for their beautiful fundraising cards; Radford College; Fraser Primary School; QEII Family Centre; Paul Chen; Rainbow People's Fund; and friends of Michael Brown who donated in support of his Alpine walk.

Companion House

Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2011

COMPANION HOUSE

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Companion House
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 2011 and auditor's 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:

H. Cory	J. Hurley
C. Argall	J. Wenner
M. Brown	B. McKail
H. Addison	L. Sturgiss
C. Doube	I. Losoncz

Results

The profit of the Association for the period amounted to $104,624 (2010 – $82,798).

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 or 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.

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.

Proceeding 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 the 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 Mark Hayes 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:

Director

Director

Dated this 14th day of September 2011.

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 2011, 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 mis-statement, 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 procedure 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 procedure 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 the 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 o 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.

Companion House
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 2011 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

Mark Hayes & Co

23 Isa Street, Fyshwick ACT 2609

Mark Hayes

Dated this 29th day of August 2011

Companion House
Independent Audit Report
To the Members of Companion House

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 2011 there have been no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

Mark Hayes & Co

23 Isa Street, Fyshwick ACT 2609

Mark Hayes

Dated this 28th day of August 2011.

Companion House
Income Statement
For the Year ended 30 June 2011

	Notes	2011 $	2010 $
Revenue		1,306,482	1,352,864
Employee Benefits Expense		920,349	974,804
Depreciation		12,684	19,495
Other Expenses		268,825	275,767
Profit before Income Tax		104,624	82,798
Income Tax Expense		-	-
Profit from Operations		104,624	82,798

The Income Statement is to be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Financial Statements

Companion House
Balance Sheet
As at 30 June 2011

	Notes	2011 $	2010 $
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	2	469,842	245,520
Receivables	3	28,010	208,941
Investments	4	22,705	21,496
Other Assets	5	215	-
Total Current Assets		520,772	475,957
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	6	23,587	58,945
Total Non-Current Assets		23,587	58,945
Total Assets		544,359	534,902
Current Liabilities			
Creditors and accruals		20,461	54,987
Grants paid in advance		32,673	39,839
Provisions	7A	60,522	73,321
Total Current Liabilities		113,656	168,147
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions	7B	23,588	28,825
Other	8	16,876	52,314
Total Non-Current Liabilities		40,464	81,140
Total Liabilities		154,120	249,287
Net Assets		390,239	285,615
Member's Funds			
Accumulated surplus		390,239	285,615
Total Member's Funds		390,239	285,615

The Balance Sheet is to be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Financial Statements

Companion House
Cash Flow Statement
For the year ended 30 June 2011

	Notes	2011 $	2010 $
Cash Flows From Operating Activities			
Cash Received			
Grants & Medical Programs received		1,420,832	1,231,780
Interest received		14,647	7,749
Other income		43,723	33,661
Total Cash Received		1,479,202	1,273,190
Payments			
Payments to suppliers		-335,539	-275,766
Payments to employees		-942,015	-970,670
Total Payments		-1,277,554	-1,246,436
Net Cash from Operating Activities		201,648	26,753
Cash Flow from Investing Activities			
Proceeds from sales of plant and equipment		24,619	14,500
Payments for purchases of plant and equipment		-1,945	-32,750
Net Cash from Investing Activities		22,674	-18,250
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		224,322	8,504
Cash at beginning of the financial year		245,520	237,016
Cash at end of financial year		469,842	245,520

Companion House
Statement of Appropriations
For the year ended 30 June 2011

	Notes	2011 $	2010 $
Accumulated Surplus - Beginning of Year		285,615	202,817
Profit before Income Tax		104,624	82,798
Income Tax		-	-
Profit after Income Tax		104,624	82,798
Accumulated Surplus at 30 June 2011		390,239	285,615

Companion House
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2011

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 Association Incorporation Act 1991. The financial report is prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical cost 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 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 At 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.

Companion House
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2011

	2011 $	2010 $
2. Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash at Bank	469,842	245,520
3. Receivables		
Sundry debtors	28,010	208,941
4. Investments		
CPS Investment	22,705	21,496
5. Other Assets		
GST	215	-
6. Property, Plant and Equipment		
Plant & equipment at cost	61,475	59,530
Plant & equipment accumulated depreciation	(51,203)	(44,381)
	10,272	15,149
Motor vehicles at cost	17,850	59,164
Motor vehicles accumulated depreciation	(4,535)	(15,368)
	13,315	43,796
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	23,587	58,945
7. Provisions		
7A. Current		
Annual leave	60,522	73,321
	60,522	73,321
7B. Non-Current		
Long service leave	23,588	28,825
	23,588	28,825
8. Other Liabilities		
Hire Purchase Loans	16,876	52,314

Companion House
Statement by Directors

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 and fair view of the financial position of Companion House as at 30 June 2011 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 the resolution of the Board and is signed for and on behalf of the Board by:

.....
Director

.....
Director

Dated this 19th day of September 2011