Companion House

2013–14 Annual Report





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 Michael Brown
Secretary Ibi Losoncz
Treasurer Cade Brown
Members Liz Callaghan, Eleanor Brown, Toni Matulik, Kylie Woodward

STAFF

Director Kathy Ragless
Deputy Director Jeannie McLellan

COUNSELLING TEAM

Team Leader Deb Nelson
Counsellor– Children Sam Storey
Counsellors Elizabeth Price, Ina Toumoua , Fiona McDonald, Anna Molan
Support worker and case work Jill Caley
Complementary Therapy Rosemary Taylor

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING TEAM:

Team Leader Vesna Golic (until Dec 2013), Glenn Flanagan from Jan 2014)
Bicultural Support workers Vellupillai Ariaratnam Balasurthanthiram and Peter Kuot
Project Officer Hongsar Channaibanya
Project Officer Sandra Lloyd
Project Officer Vieli Choka
Project Officer Habibullah Azimi

MEDICAL TEAM

Practice Nurses Lisa Clements (Team Leader), Tytti Makinen
Medical Coordinator Silvia Salas Meyer
Support staff Andrew Sein and Pam Mitchell
Clinical Director Dr Christine Phillips
GP Dr Katrina Anderson
GP Dr Joo-Inn Chew
GP Dr James Eldridge
GP Dr Janine Rowse
GP Dr Sue Bagalow
GP Dr Rebecca Kathage

MIGRATION ADVICE

Jennifer Tode
James Brown

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Finance Officer Gen Jones
Admin/Reception Staff Loan Freeman (Team Leader), Andrew Sein, Pam Mitchell, Habibullah Azimi

FUNDING

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

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

Commonwealth Department of Immigration and Border Protection - Immigration Advice and Application Assistance Scheme (IAAAS), Complex Case Services , counselling for people in community detention and asylum seekers participating in CAS/ASAS.

Commonwealth Department of Social Services - Emergency Relief, Sharing and Learning project

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

ACT Government Community Services Directorate - children's program, community development program activities, work with youth, training

PARTNERS AND ALLIANCES

ACT Dental Program
ACT Mental Health
ACT Health Community Pediatrics Registrar Program
ACT Hazara Community Association
ACT Parents and Citizens Association
ACTCOSS
Adult Migrant English Program
Australia-Karen Organisation of the ACT
Australia Mon Association Inc
Amnesty International ACT Branch
Asylum Seekers Transitional Accommodation Program (Canberra Men's Centre, Connections ACT, St Vincent de Paul, Australian Red Cross, Companion House, Canberra Refugee Support, Housing ACT)
Belconnen Child and Family Centre
Calvary Refugee Mentoring Program
Canberra Multicultural Communities Forum
Canberra Men's Centre
Canberra Refugee Support
Canberra Sierra Leone Association
Capital Careers
Capital Medical Supplies
Capital Pathology
Capital Football
Connections ACT
Chin Community Canberra and Goulburn
Dickson College Secondary Introductory English Centre
Dinka congregation at St Georges Anglican Church
Dinka congregation of St Phillip's Anglican church
Flamen Nominees
Forum of Australian Services for Survivors of Torture and Trauma (FASSTT)
Football United
Goulburn Multicultural Centre
Gungahlin Child and Family Centre
Hazara Language School
Housing ACT
Interchange General Practice
International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims
Medicare Local
Multicultural Youth Service
National Capital Diagnostic Imaging
North Ainslie Primary Introductory English Centre
Australian Red Cross
Refugee Council of Australia
Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT
Spectacle Subsidy Scheme
St John the Apostle Refugee Resettlement Committee
St Vincent de Paul
Social Ventures Australia
Snow Foundation
Sudanese Australia Community Association
Tuggeranong Child and Family Centre
Youth Coalition of the ACT

From the Chairperson

Companion House has continued to deliver greatly needed services to survivors of torture and trauma in 2013-2014, within an environment characterised by increasing challenges and uncertainties.

Our Director, Kathy Ragless, supported by Jeannie McLellan as Deputy, has led a professional, dedicated and inspiring team in serving more than 1000 clients in counselling and primary health services and in education, advocacy and community development.

Our Board has included members with legal, finance, health, psychology, policy, research and management expertise. We have been served more than capably by Cade Brown as Treasurer, Dr Ibolya (Ibi) Lozoncz as Secretary and Toni Matulick as Public Officer.

The Board has turned its attention to a range of matters to strengthen our capacity to deliver high quality services. We have sought to diversify our funding sources and have had some success in attracting philanthropic support. Companion House has also attracted as an increased level of pro bono work in migration application assistance, with the Board determining that this work, though unfunded, is a priority, particularly on behalf of unaccompanied minors. We continue to look for funding opportunities from private donors.

The Board worked with staff on a new 2014-17 Strategic Plan; approved a Risk Management Plan; and gave some attention to communication issues, supporting the introduction of new 'short, sharp' news emails to members.

The Board decided to become a member of Overseas Services for Survivors of Torture and Trauma (OSSTT), thus supporting the efforts of FASSTT agencies in work in offshore processing centres.

Two events stand out: our well-supported fundraising dinner ($10,000 raised for emergency relief, which has helped to address the needs particularly of asylum seekers) and the tenth annual Soccer Day and associated community celebrations.

Thank you to all our contributors: clients, staff, volunteers, members, sponsors, funding bodies and board members. We look forward to a further year of dedicated provision of much needed services.

Michael Brown

From the Director

Companion House works with survivors of torture and trauma. Most of the people we work with are asylum seekers or people from a refugee background. We work with people to build safety, connections to others, meaning and purpose, dignity and value.

Companion House works on these tasks through medical, counselling, migration and community services, all with the same aim and purpose.

The uncertain and changeable policy environment for asylum seekers has made this work very difficult at times over 2013-14. Some public policy in Australia undermines effort to build safety and dignity for vulnerable people. Asylum seekers become caught up in strategies aimed to deter and punish people who arrived by boat. This can be very saddening for staff and volunteers who work with survivors of torture and trauma in our services each day.

Nonetheless at the same time we also experience generous support from our local community donors, ACT Government and the Commonwealth Government to operate our services. We would like to particularly thank Housing ACT for their professional commitment to housing vulnerable people in the ACT over 2013-14.

Our two most pressing needs over the year have been the need for financial relief for people living in poverty and migration support for asylum seekers with no access to migration support, including unaccompanied minors. I offer our heartfelt thanks to donors to our financial relief program and our generous probono migration agents.

It is always a pleasure to work with my colleagues at Companion House and with asylum seekers and people from a refugee background from around the globe. I look forward to continuing this work in 2014-15.

Kathy Ragless, AM

Mary

Mary comes from Burma. She escaped brutal persecution there, only to find that in the refugee camp she was again targeted for violence. She managed to survive and come to Australia as a refugee. She did not know anything about her new country when she arrived, and she found it very strange and bewildering. She found Canberra very quiet and said she was not used to having so much space around her and so few people. At first she felt very lonely and isolated and she found it very hard to find her way around, especially because she did not speak English well, and she also sustained permanent disabilities due to the torture she had suffered. However, she enrolled in English classes and attended as regularly as she could, given her physical health problems. She also met some other women from her country. Her naturally outgoing personality began to flourish again as she made new friends. Sometimes she is now smiling and laughing like she used to, "before all the troubles".



Goal One

Survivors of torture and trauma achieve safety, heal and recover from trauma experiences and maintain well-being.

Counselling, Support work and Complementary Therapy with Adults and Young People

Our counselling programs worked with people of all ages and from a diverse range of cultural backgrounds. We worked with people who have just arrived in Australia and those who have been here for some years.

We also worked with both people from a refugee background and asylum seekers. We used a wide range of therapeutic tools with a strong focus on building safety. Our work with asylum seekers in this area tends to focus on containment of distress and anxiety and symptom management.

Counsellors also work to ensure people have access to social entitlements and on other advocacy issues where necessary.

Companion House's counselling service has a large number of asylum seeker clients, who are usually separated from family and struggling with sadness, worry and fear in the extremely uncertain process of seeking asylum in Australia. To offer psychological support to these people, the counselling team ran a number of groups for asylum seekers over the past year. One type of group was focused on symptom management and psycho-education, with outings alternating with information-sharing sessions. This group was closed, so the group membership was fixed over the course of the 8 weeks. The counselling team offered three of these groups in 2013-14. In addition, the counselling team offered two relaxation groups, each running for 7-10 weeks. These groups were open and involved guided relaxation and mindfulness exercises. All groups were all well-attended and feedback was very positive.

In 2013-14 we also focused more energy and resources on casework support to a range of people. Most of this work was with families and focused on housing issues, homelessness and financial distress.

Working with Children

We continued to work with primary aged children both individually and in groups. Much of this work is done in close cooperation with ACT schools. Most individual work with children is done within the school, in collaboration with school staff. We also ran a variety of group programs during the school term.

For many years we have run regular school holiday programs for primary aged children and we continued these in 2013-4. School holiday programs have the core aim of assessment and identification of children in need of early intervention. However, at the same time the programs build links with parents and children, provide children with stimulating and fun activities and build friendships, trust, safety and confidence.

The following are from women from ten different refugee and asylum seeker communities at Companion House International Women's Day 2014.

Who is a happy woman?

To be a happy woman is to enjoy what you like

To be a happy woman is to have the same human rights women and men

To be a happy woman is to help other people who need help

To be a happy woman is to stay with all my family members

To be a happy woman is to have freedom for my family

To be a happy woman is to be free and be me

To be a happy woman is to do things that I like and enjoy

Medical Service

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

We had 1297 patients in the Medical Service in 2013-14.

We aim to be a transition service for new arrivals for their first year in Australia but often struggle to find GPs for referral.

The medical service provided GP and Registered Nurse services five days a week. This included health screening and primary health care such as vaccinations when people first arrive in Australia. We also worked with people over a longer period to help them manage chronic and complex health needs. Our clinic also provided a range of referral, coordination and outreach services to ensure clients can access other health and allied services in the ACT.

We continued to have a paediatric registrar working with our GPs once a week under a memorandum of understanding with ACT Health Directorate.

Counselling, Casework and Primary Health Services

Program	Number of Clients
Counselling with adults and young people	228
Children's holiday programs, group work and individual counselling	61
Counselling with people in community detention (asylum seekers)	32
Complex Case	4
Complementary Therapy	56
Support Work and casework	132
Medical patients	1297

Fatima

Fatima came to Australia with her husband and two small children, as refugees from Syria. The family had been wealthy in their home country, but had left everything and fled for their lives when war reached their city. Upon arrival in Australia, Fatima's husband (who had learned English in their country) immediately began looking for work. Although he had to accept a job far below his skills and qualifications, he gained fulltime employment. Fatima joined a playgroup and found people she could relate to - not only from her country of origin, but also people from other countries who shared the experience of forced migration and the challenges of resettlement. She learned about resources and activities available in Canberra and how to navigate some of the services she needed in order to ease her transition into Australian life. She eventually got into CIT, with her children placed in the day care there. After she learns English she is planning on returning to school to qualify as a childcare worker.







Goal Two

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

Training

Companion House has a substantial and high quality training and community education program aimed at increasing understanding of the refugee experience and building skills in working with survivors of torture and trauma. During the 2013-14 year, we facilitated 50 training sessions with a total of 829 participants from 46 Government and community agencies.

Policy 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).

In 2013-14 we gave feedback to peak organisations and Government at the national level about the human impact of national asylum seeker policy.

We also worked with partner agencies and with policy makers on a large variety of systemic advocacy issues at the local level. Our organisation put the highest priority on the local issues described below.

Work with Children in ACT Schools

Over 2013-14 Companion House ran the Recognition of Excellence Awards to award best practice work with children and young people from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds in ACT Schools. The awards showcased best practice to the education sector with awards being presented in November 2013 by the Chief Minister Ms Katy Gallagher. In addition to the awards process, Companion House also organised an education forum in partnership with the ACT Council of Parents and Citizens Councils. The forum focused on exchange between new and emerging communities, teachers, schools and policy makers about best practice work with children from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds

Service Access for Asylum Seekers

Over 2013-14 Companion House collaborated with the ACT Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) in the granting of ACT Access Cards to asylum seekers (which ensure access to ACT local Government services). Companion House granted about 200 cards to asylum seekers each quarter. We participated actively in a review of the Access Card in 2013 which saw eligilbity for the card extended to people in community detention and the validity of the card extended to 6 months. We are not funded by government for this activity.

What are you hopes and aspirations?

As a woman I hope that in the future that more woman become powerful the same as men

As a woman I hope that in the future I want to be a social worker

As a woman I hope that in the future I am a good citizen in Australia and speak English well

As a woman I hope that in the future I am studying nursing

As a woman I hope that in the future I can do nursing and study

As a woman I hope that in the future all people are free

What are your hopes for your children?

As a mother, I hope that my children have a good education in their future

As a mother, I hope that my children should grow to be respected people

As a mother, I hope my children have good activity and study well

As a mother I hope my children have good activities, culture and are good citizens

Raj

Raj is an asylum seeker. In his home country he was a skilled tradesman and commanded a great deal of respect as a person who was intelligent and generous. Many people turned to him for advice on all sorts of issues. He fled his home country after his brother was abducted and brutally tortured, fearing he would be next. He arrived in Canberra about two years ago, and since then he has been living on a bridging visa with no work rights. He is barred from making an application for asylum and his life is dominated by uncertainty about the future. When he first arrived he had high hopes and felt safe and happy to be in Australia. However, he found that he was unable to use his skills, and only able to access limited English classes. He spent a lot of time alone in his room, where he began thinking and worrying. His sleep became disturbed, he began to get regular headaches and his energy drained away. He watched the news avidly, looking for any information about what happens to asylum seekers who are sent back to their country. He became very anxious, and over time he noticed that his memory and concentration also began to fail. He was terrified of being sent back to his country, and stated that he would rather take his own life here than be sent back to torture.

Asylum Seeker Housing for Unaccompanied Men

Companion House was very pleased to continue to work together with eight local partner agencies to operate the Asylum Seeker Transitional Accommodation Program (ASTA) over 2013-14. This initiative provides shared accommodation for vulnerable unaccompanied asylum seeker men. Housing ACT provides the properties for this program, which is otherwise unfunded by Government. A review of ASTA by Housing ACT over 2013-14 found the program had been successful and expanded the number of properties available.

Interpreter Use in the ACT Health System

Companion House worked with ACT Health Directorate on the issue of interpreter use in the ACT health system. The Medical Service also carried out extensive research and data collection from our medical client management system which found lack of interpreter use with non-English speakers in the ACT health system is a serious issue in the ACT.

Community Awareness

We held one major event over 2013-14 aimed at raising community awareness about the great positives of having settlement of people from a refugee background in our community. Companion House's tenth soccer tournament celebrating World Refugee Day attracted soccer teams from communities under a banner of friendship. The Chin, Karen, Sierra Leone, Goulburn Liberian, South Sudanese and Hazara communities all had teams in the competition. Communities held a community celebration after the soccer with a vibrant show of singing, dancing and cultural tradition.



Companion House Recognition of Excellence Awards in ACT Schools – for excellence in work with children and young people from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds. The Chief Minister present awards.
Award recipients:
School Award: Dickson College
Teachers' Awards: Ros Phillips (Dickson College), Vanny Ho (Dickson College) Pushpa Ekenayake (Dickson College), Allen Luhrs (Dickson College), Geraldine Winnett (Aranda Primary School), Rebecca Jefferys (St John the Apostle Primary School), Karl-Erik Paasonen (Telopea Park School)
Students' awards: Soraj Habib Ghulam, Deng Aleer Deng
November 2013

Goal Three

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

Community Development and Capacity Building

Our Community Development Team worked 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 continued to focus on cultural transition, health promotion, governance of community associations, social enterprise and parenting activities.

This year, we worked with people from the Chin, Karen, Mon, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Tamil, Persian speaking and Hazara communities. This work is only possible through the ongoing support and guidance from leaders of each community.

Highlights included:

- Fortnightly cooking and gardening sessions with asylum seeker men under the banner of "My Brother's Kitchen"
- Regular tennis and Zumba sessions with a variety of communities
- Multicultural Women's group sessions focused on nutrition, wellbeing and cultural exchange.
- Regular play groups across a range of communities
- Walking groups with Karen and Tamil communities.
- Regular sessions focused on health and wellbeing with young people
- Persian New Year celebrations and lunches for Persian speakers
- Active children's days in school holidays in partnership with Little Athletics
- Development of gardens at Pialligo and production of fresh produce in the gardens, including a public market day at Pialligo.
- Participation in Sun Community Cup and six months of running Football United in the ACT
- 10th Annual World Refugee Soccer Tournament
- Governance training for community leaders

Migration Advice and Assistance

Over 2013-14 we managed the Immigration Advice and Application Assistance Scheme (IAAAS) for the ACT.

Under the IAAAS we provided 326 immigration advice sessions. Most of these sessions were focused on family reunion applications. We also supported 22 asylum seekers with advice and application assistance.

We sourced pro bono support for people not eligible for the IAAAS and used some donation funds for this purpose also – this work is reported more fully under Goal 5. In addition, we ran a volunteer program to support people to complete migration documentation.

Emergency Financial Relief

We granted emergency financial relief to 130 people in financial distress over 2013-14. Most of this group of people were asylum seekers. We provided food vouchers, bus tickets and fuel cards and paid for medications, We doubled the amount we spent on emergency financial relief over 2013-14, funded primarily by generous donations from the ACT community.

Goal Four

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.

There were many compelling human rights issues at the national level for our asylum seeker clients in particular. We worked at the individual level to assist asylum seekers to cope with delayed processing times, re-detention, lack of migration support, financial stress and separation from family. We also fed policy input about the experience of our clients at the national level to Government and peak bodies. In addition, we kept our membership informed of key issues.

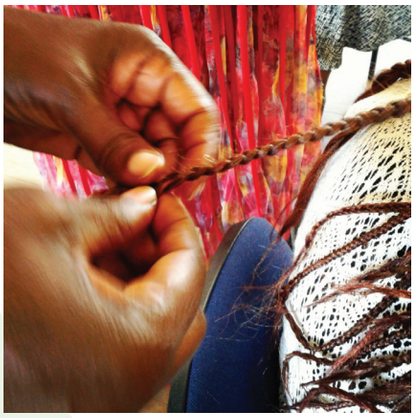
Under Goal 2 in this report we describe a number of key local issues which Companion House focused on over 2013-14. These included asylum seekers access to secure housing and key services, interpreter use in the ACT health system and best practice work with children in ACT schools.

An additional issue is migration advice and support for vulnerable people. We provided some Commonwealth Government funded migration assistance to people seeking family reunion and asylum seekers. However, many asylum seekers who arrived by boat to Australia have no eligibility for any funded service. Companion House organised a network of probono migration agents over 2013-14. We support agents by providing interpreters, office space, organising appointments and paying for work when we have donations to do so. Over 2013-14 Companion House was very pleased to be able to facilitate probono migration support to 30 asylum seekers – 20 unaccompanied minors and 10 adults.

Ali

Ali began his refugee flight in Afghanistan after members of his family were murdered. He escaped in a car driven late at night through Taliban-held territory. He had to cross borders, keeping to himself and trying not to arouse attention. He paid many bribes. He remembers having to use false passports to board airplanes, and just "praying to God" that he would not be stopped. He travelled by bus and car through strange countries, not knowing exactly where he was going or what would happen next. He was caught in Indonesia and put in prison, but escaped and got onto a boat headed for Australia. The boat trip took many days and Ali was thirsty and hungry. He was also very frightened of the high waves, which seemed to last forever. When he finally reached Australia he was greatly relieved and wanted to reach his family back in Afghanistan and let them know that he was safe. But he could not contact them directly - to do so would put them in danger. Instead, he contacted a cousin in another country who could then relay the message that he was in Australia. His cousin told him that, when he reached Ali's mother, she just cried and cried.





Goal Five

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.

Over 2013-14 Companion House reviewed our Strategic Plan and revised the format of our annual operational plan. We also renewed a number of important administrative systems, upgraded security, changed to a new IT system and higher level IT security and improved file management.

We consulted widely with communities we work with to ensure our services are responsive to the people we serve. We maintained active involvement in a wide range of multi agency forums and continued to host the ACT Asylum Seekers Network (ACTASN).

At a national level, our involvement in the Forum of Australian Services for Survivors of Torture and Trauma (FASSTT) remained important for service quality and development.

Financial Report

Assisting Survivors of Torture and Trauma Incorporated

ABN 98 349 936 816

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BOARD REPORT

The Members of the Board present their report on the Association for the year ended 30 June 2014.

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

M.Brown
T.Matulik
I.Losoncz
C.Brown
E.Browne
K.Ragless
L.Callaghan
K.Woodward (appointed October 2013)
K.Ryan (appointed August 2014)
H.McAuley (resigned October 2013)
R.Bromhead (resigned October 2013)

Principal activities
Companion House provides medical services, counselling and advocacy for survivors of torture and trauma. There were no changes to the nature of this activity during the year.

Significant Changes in State of affairs
No significant changes in the association's state of affairs occurred during the year.

Operating Results
The loss of the Association for the year amounted to $81,577 (2013 –loss $111,822).

After Balance Date events
No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the reporting period which significantly affected or may affect the operations of the Association, the results of these 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.

..... **Date** 17 OCTOBER 2014
(Board Member)
MICHAEL BROWN

..... **Date** 17 OCTOBER 2014
(Board Member)
CADE BROWN

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

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

In the opinion of the members of the Board of the association the financial report including the statement of comprehensive income, statement of financial position, statement of changes in members' funds, statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Companion House Assisting Survivors of Torture and Trauma Incorporated as at 30th June 2014 and its performance for the year ended on that date.

2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

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

.....
(Board Member)
MICHAEL BROWN

Date 17 OCTOBER 2014

.....
(Board Member)
CADE BROWN

Date 17 OCTOBER 2014

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION TO UNDER DIVISION 60 OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFITS COMMISSION ACT 2012 (ACNC ACT)

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2014 there have been no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Thomas Davis & Co.

THOMAS DAVIS & CO.

J.G. Ryan

J G Ryan Partner

SYDNEY,
Date: 17 October, 2014

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.

THOMAS DAVIS & CO.
(ESTABLISHED 1894)
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Liability limited by a scheme approved
under Professional Standards Legislation

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EMAIL: mail@thomasdavis.com.au

TO THE MEMBERS OF COMPANION HOUSE ASSISTING SURVIVORS OF TORTURE AND TRAUMA INCORPORATED

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Companion House Assisting Survivors of Torture and Trauma Incorporated, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2014, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in members' funds and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory information and the statement by board members'.

Board Members' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Board members of the Association are responsible for the preparation of the financial report and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act) and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The Board members' responsibility also includes such internal control as the Board members determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonsable 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 judgment, 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 of the financial report that gives a true and fair view, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonsableness of accounting estimates made by the Board members, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

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

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Companion House Assisting Survivors of Torture and Trauma Incorporated, as of 30 June 2014, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Regulation 2013.

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Companion House Assisting Survivors of Torture and Trauma Incorporated, meet the requirements of the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Thomas Davis & Co.

THOMAS DAVIS & CO.

J.G. Ryan

J G Ryan Partner

SYDNEY,
Date: 17 October 2014

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30TH JUNE 2014

	Note	2014 $	2013 $
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	352,180	481,915
Trade and other receivables	3	120,528	45,523
Investments	4	26,222	25,213
Total current assets		498,930	552,651
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	5	107,981	103,223
Total Non-Current assets		107,981	103,223
Total assets		606,911	655,874
Current liabilities			
Creditors and accruals	6	81,190	88,654
Other	7	86,000	68,763
Provisions	8(a)	101,194	56,817
Interest Bearing Liabilities	9(a)	30,683	31,576
Total current liabilities		299,067	245,810
Non-Current liabilities			
Provisions	8(b)	41,212	31,172
Interest Bearing Liabilities	9(b)	-	30,683
Total Non-Current liabilities		41,212	61,855
Total liabilities		340,279	307,665
Net assets		266,632	348,209
Members' funds			
Retained profits/(losses)	11	266,632	348,209
Total members' funds		266,632	348,209

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

	2014 $	2013 $
Revenue	1,910,472	1,542,019
Employee Benefits	(1,370,302)	(1,261,342)
Amortisation and Depreciation	(24,468)	(26,360)
Borrowing Costs	(4,487)	(8,181)
Other Expenses	(592,792)	(357,958)
Profit / (Loss) before Income tax	(81,577)	(111,822)
Income Tax Expense	-	-
Profit / (Loss) after Income tax	(81,577)	(111,822)
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-
Total comprehensive income attributable to the members of the association	(81,577)	(111,822)

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN MEMBERS' FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

	2014 $	2013 $
Accumulated Surplus - Beginning of Year	348,209	460,031
Profit / (Loss) after Income Tax	(81,577)	(111,822)
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-
Accumulated Surplus at 30 June 2014	266,632	348,209

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

	Note	2014 $ Inflows (Outflows)	2013 $ Inflows (Outflows)
Cash flows from operating activities			
Interest received		9,520	13,361
Grants & Medical Programs received		1,741,530	1,485,434
Other receipts		100,645	78,123
Payments to suppliers and employees		(1,920,628)	(1,603,950)
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	12	(68,933)	(27,032)
Cash flow from investing activities			
Increase / (decrease) in investments		1,009	1,180
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment		-	-
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(30,226)	(29,129)
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities		(29,217)	(27,949)
Cash flow from financing activities			
Hire purchase and lease payments		(31,585)	(17,370)
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities		(31,585)	(17,370)
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held		(129,735)	(72,351)
Cash at the beginning of the financial year		481,915	554,266
Cash at the end of the financial year	2	352,180	481,915

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

NOTE 1 - STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

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

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

(a) Revenue recognition

Government grants

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

Interest revenue

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

Fundraising and other income

Fundraising and other income are recognised as revenue when received.

(b) Employee Benefits

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

(c) Income tax

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

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

NOTE 1 - STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(d) Property, Plant and Equipment

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

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

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

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

(e) Impairment of assets

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

(f) Leases

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

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

Leased assets are amortised over their estimated useful lives.

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

(g) Cash and cash equivalents

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

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

NOTE 1 - STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(h) Goods and services tax

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

(i) where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the taxation authority, it is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of an asset or as part of an item of expense; or

(ii) for receivables and payables which are recognised inclusive of GST.

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

(i) Economic Dependency

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

	2014 $	2013 $
NOTE 2 - CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash at bank & on hand	352,180	481,915
	352,180	481,915
NOTE 3 - TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES		
Trade Debtors	120,528	45,523
	120,528	45,523
NOTE 4 - INVESTMENTS		
CPS Investment	26,222	25,213
	26,222	25,213

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

	2014 $	2013 $
NOTE 5 - PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Building Improvements at cost	17,215	17,215
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(2,736)	(1,939)
	14,479	15,276
Plant and Equipment at cost	87,949	60,994
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(36,854)	(27,766)
	51,095	33,228
Motor Vehicles at cost	19,377	19,377
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(8,175)	(4,923)
	11,202	14,454
Motor Vehicles under lease	49,557	49,557
Less: Accumulated amortisation	(18,352)	(9,292)
	31,205	40,265
TOTAL PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	107,981	103,223
NOTE 6 - TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES		
Sundry Creditors and Accruals	81,190	88,654
	81,190	88,654
NOTE 7 - OTHER LIABILITIES		
Grants Received in Advance	86,000	68,763
	86,000	68,763
NOTE 8 - PROVISIONS		
a. Current		
Annual Leave	101,194	56,817
	101,194	56,817
b. Non-Current		
Long Service Leave	41,212	31,172
	41,212	31,172

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

	2014 $	2013 $
NOTE 9 - INTEREST BEARING LIABILITIES		
a. Current		
Hire Purchase Loans	-	18,262
Lease Liabilities	30,683	13,314
	30,683	31,576
b. Non-Current		
Hire Purchase Loans	-	-
Lease Liabilities	-	30,683
	-	30,683
NOTE 10 - LEASING COMMITMENTS		
Finance leases capitalised in the accounts in accordance with the accounting policies defined in Note 1		
Payable - minimum lease payments		
- not later than one year	31,216	16,057
- between 1 and 5 years	-	31,216
Minimum lease payments	31,216	47,273
Less: future finance charges	(533)	(3,276)
Total lease liabilities	30,683	43,997
NOTE 11 - RETAINED PROFIT/(LOSS)		
Balance at the beginning of the year	348,209	460,031
Profit/(loss) for the year	(81,577)	(111,822)
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Balance at the end of the year	266,632	348,209
NOTE 12 - RECONCILIATION OF CASH FLOWS		
Operating profit / (loss) from ordinary activities after income tax	(81,577)	(111,822)
Non cash items		
Amortisation and depreciation	24,468	26,360
(Profit) / loss on sale of assets	-	(1,051)
Reinvested interest on investments	(1,009)	(1,180)
Expenses financed by leases	-	4,824
Change in operating assets and liabilities		
(Increase) / decrease in trade and other receivables	(75,005)	39,126
Increase / (decrease) in trade and other payables	(7,464)	3,192
Increase / (decrease) in income in advance	17,237	4,236
Increase / (decrease) in employee provisions	54,417	9,283
Cash flows provided by / (used in) operating activities	(68,933)	(27,032)

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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 and peer mentors from all the refugee communities we work with particularly Manoranjitham Ramachandran, Walid Bashir, Deng Aleer, Peter Kuot and Velupillai Ariyaratnam Balasuthanthira.

The volunteers supporting the IAAAS by assisting people with filling of forms - Pat Varga, Christine Stewart, Jenny Rae, Gabriela Samcewicz and Carol Patrick.

The following people and organisations for assistance with the World Refugee Day soccer tournament: Capital Football, Rev Richard Browning and Radford College, United Nations High Commission for Refugees and Multicultural Youth Services - especially John Gunn.

Social Ventures Australia and the Snow Foundation for donations to support development of social enterprise at the Companion House gardens in Pialligo. Also Roy and Barbara Priest from Flamen Nominees for their support of the community garden.

Dickson College with special thanks to Ros Phillips.

Anne Marie Nichol for donation of rental property at cost.

Canberra Refugee Support

Our very generous probono migration agents: David Chen, James Brown, Ruth Haigh, Marion Le, Marianne Dickie ,Er-Kai Wang, Jennifer Tode, Ebenezer Banful, Farid Varessa at Fragomens and Carly Saeedi Lawyers.

Pat Varga and Mike Varga for the curtain project – providing 10 newly housed households with curtains.

Fred Fawke and Digby Habel for helping us move furniture.

Margaret McKinnon and Evelyn Gore for coordinating all the new warm knitted items for our clients.

Rosie Done for helping us set up new households,and weekly delivery of fruit and vegetables.

Jamal Halal for weekly donations of fresh produce.

Jenny McGee for bringing weekly delivery of donated bread from Brumbys Bakery Lyneham.