

Companion House

2015 – 16 Annual Report

Mission

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

Principles of Service

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

Patrons, Board, Staff and Funding

PATRONS

Justice Elizabeth Evatt AO
Professor William Maley AM

BOARD

Chairperson Michael Brown (until 22.10.15), Kim Ryan (from 22.10.15)
Secretary Eleanor Browne (until 22.10.15), Ibolya Losoncz (from 22.10.15)
Treasurer Rahul Verma
Members Toni Matulik, Kylie Woodward, Gordon Scott (until 22.10.15), Veronica Blanpain (from 22.10.15), Julian Cribb (from 22.10.15), Karen Middleton (from 22.10.15)

STAFF

Director Kathy Ragless
Operations Manager Jeannie McLellan

COUNSELLING TEAM:

Team Leader Deborah Nelson
Counsellor – Children Sam Storey
Counsellors Elizabeth Price, Ina Toumoua, Brenda Martin,Vaneitha Balakrishnan
Caseworker Mutsumi Sakaguchi
Complementary Therapy Rosemary Taylor

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING TEAM:

Team Leader Glenn Flanagan
Project Officers Hongsar Channaibanya, Sandra Lloyd, Tytti Makinen, Velupillai Ariyaratnam Balasanthira, Mustafa Ehsan, Andrew Sein, Mari Ruuskanen

MEDICAL TEAM

Team leader Lisa Clements
Practice Nurses Tytti Makinen, Megan Enright
Medical Coordinator Silvia Salas Meyer
Support staff Andrew Sein, Pam Mitchell
Clinical Director Dr Christine Phillips
GPs Dr Katrina Anderson, Dr Joo-Inn Chew, Dr James Eldridge, Dr Sue Baglow, Dr Bernadette McKay
Physiotherapist Therese Keily-Wynter

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Team Leader Loan Freeman
Finance Officer Gen Jones and Oki Widodo
Admin/Reception Staff Andrew Sein, Pam Mitchell
IT contractor Forward IT with special thanks to Hrovje Grabic.

MIGRATION AGENTS

IAAAS Jennifer Tode and James Brown
Probono David Chen, Marianne Dickie, Marion Le, James Brown, Ruth Haig, Fragomens, Ebenezer Banful, Er-Kai Wang
Low fee James Brown, Hugh Wyndham, Carly Saeedi, Jennifer Tode, Owen Harris, Ebenezer Banful

FUNDING

We acknowledge the following funding bodies for their financial support:

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

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

Commonwealth Department of Social Services – Emergency Relief

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

ACT Education Directorate – community education programs for young asylum seekers

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

Snow Foundation –- driving lessons and university fees

Australian Practice Nurse Association – establishment of liver clinic

PARTNERS AND ALLIANCES

ACT Dental Program
ACT Mental Health
ACT Health Community Pediatrics Registrar Program
ACT Council of Parents and Citizens Associations
Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA)
Adult Migrant English Program (Navitas English)
Australia-Karen Organisation of the ACT
Australian National University Medical School Academic Unit (AUGP)
Australia Mon Association Inc
Asylum Seekers Transitional Accommodation Program (Canberra Men's Centre, Connections ACT, St Vincent de Paul, Australian Red Cross, Companion House, Canberra Refugee Support, Housing ACT)
Calvary Hospital Refugee Mentoring Program
Canberra Institute of Technology
Canberra Men's Centre
Canberra Refugee Support
Capital Pathology
Capital Football
Dickson College Secondary Introductory English Centre
Forum of Australian Services for Survivors of Torture and Trauma (FASSTT)
Flamen Nominees
Foodbank
Four Tonnes Project –Four Winds Vineyard, Collector Wines and Eden Road Wines
Gungahlin Child and Family Centre
Housing ACT
International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT)
Kambah Community Gardens
Legal Aid ACT
Majura Tennis Club
Multicultural Youth Service
National Capital Diagnostic Imaging
ACT Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA)
Our Place Youth Accommodation
Relationships Australia
Refugee Council of Australia
Spectacle Subsidy Scheme
University of Canberra
Snow Foundation
Psychiatrist Network: Dr John Saboisky, Dr Meredith Whiting, Dr Kate Lubbe, and Dr Ann Harrison
Migration Agents Network: David Chen, Marianne Dickie, Marion Le, James Brown, Ruth Haig,, Ebenezer Banful, Er-Kai Wang, Hugh Wyndham, Carly Saeedi, Jennifer Tode, Owen Harris
Kate Flaherty, Higher Paths Consulting

From the Chairperson and Director

Over 2015-16 Companion House remained strongly committed to support and strengthen adults and children who have sought safety in Australia from persecution, torture and war.

We worked with over 1100 people over the year, in primary health care, counselling, health promotion, community development, emergency relief and migration services.

Our work with survivors of torture and trauma to rebuild their lives has continued to be very positive. People set out to reestablish themselves and recover with tenacity. We witness people both contribute to and enrich our community.

We focused strongly on building collaboration and partnerships across the community over the year. We thank the wide range of organisations and individuals who have worked closely with us. We particularly recognize the University of Canberra for their responsiveness to the needs of young asylum seekers over 2016.

ACT Government maintained a strong interest in health and settlement issues and the wellbeing of asylum seekers. We remain committed to work with ACT government on issues which need further work. Priorities are to (1) increase interpreter use in ACT service systems, particularly health services and schools and (2) support asylum seekers through maintenance of the Access Card system and establishment of education and training pathways for young people.

The Commonwealth Government also continued to invest in health and counselling programs for survivors of torture and trauma in recognition of the impact of these experiences and the need to support rebuilding and recovery.

However, the uncertain and often punitive environment for asylum seekers remained challenging. Some public policy and discourse at the Commonwealth level continued to undermine efforts to build safety and dignity for vulnerable people.

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

Companion House also focused strongly on continuous improvement and quality over the year. We were accredited against the National Standards for Mental Health Services in 2016 and proud to receive very positive feedback from accreditation assessors about our services, management and governance.

It was a privilege to work on recovery, rebuilding and human rights principles with Companion House, funders, donors, partners and community supporters.

Kim Ryan *Chairperson*
Kathy Ragless *Director*

Top to bottom, left to right:

Loka Chanmi and Mikhin Chani from Café Ink with Glenn Flanagan

Saw Htoo Wah at World Refugee Day Morning Tea

Saya Mon, 15 years, speaking at World Refugee Day morning tea

Child's art work

Girl on Mt Painter

Harvest Feast











Me

'I wonder who I am?
Or where I am meant to be?
Or where I could be?
Or how to leave?
Or how to be a true person?
I wonder!
I wonder how I can fit in this world
Or how to be right?
But no one can answer my questions'

Maryam Sathat Sobhani

Won the Upper Primary category in the Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards, poetry competition for school-aged children in Australia 2014



Goal One

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



"I will recommend Companion House counselling service to others, as it has totally changed my life, gave me hope, brought me back to life and most important gave me a second chance at life. Companion House has truly been a companion to me…"

"I like the way they treat people at Companion House equally irrespective of race and religion. I encourage you to keep on treating people the same way. "

"I would suggest that Companion House do not give up. But continue providing these services for many people."

Counselling, Casework and Complementary Therapy

Counselling

Over 2015-16 the counselling team worked:

- With survivors of torture and trauma
- With people from many different cultural backgrounds, across the age spectrum
- Using a wide range of therapeutic tools with a strong focus on building safety
- With asylum seekers and permanent residents
- In a multidisciplinary team of social workers and psychologists.
- With primary aged children individually and in groups, in close cooperation with ACT schools.

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

Casework

We provided support primarily to people who experienced:

- Housing distress and homelessness
- Financial distress
- Legal issues
- Disability and complex health needs.

Housing issues and homelessness were the most common challenges for people.

We also managed two private rental properties head leased for vulnerable people.

Complementary Therapy

Complementary therapy assists with physical pain, anxiety, depression and post traumatic symptoms.

We provided Bowen therapy and Bach Flower remedies to assist people with these challenges.

Medical Services

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

The medical service provided:

- Health screening and primary health care
- Assistance to manage chronic and complex health needs longer term.
- Referral and coordination
- Assistance to access specialist care and pharmaceuticals for people with no income or financial distress
- Free primary health care assistance for asylum seekers with no other primary health care options

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

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

We also began establishment of a healthy liver clinic focused on best practice treatment for people with chronic Hepatitis B and C. This initiative was funded by the Australian Practice Nurse association (APNA).

Health professionals also continued to analyse data from our medical records over the year.

Researchers found that

- Compared to permanent visa holders, asylum seekers had a four fold higher attendance rate in the medical service for psychological reasons.
- As policy settings increased difficulties for asylum seekers in the community, the service also experienced a sharp increase in attendance for problems such as poverty, unemployment and migration issues.

Counselling, Casework and Primary Health Services

Program	Number of Clients
Counselling with adults and young people	219
Children's holiday programs, group work and individual counselling	48
Complex Case	9
Complementary Therapy	49
Support Work and casework	139
Medical patients	1028

"Both the staff and patients that contributed to this project strongly endorsed the work of Companion House; patients are extremely satisfied with the services and the care that they receive, while staff have strong commitment to delivering collaborative, patient-centred care. One of the great strengths of Companion House that emerged from the research are the strong ties to the communities that it serves".

Interim Report from Integrating Care Project conducted by researchers at the Australian National University and funded by Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute (APHSRI) 2015

A 12 year old child, Susan, arrived in Australia with experience of war, violence and fragmented family. Susan struggled to settle in at school and make friends and was highly anxious. Counselling over six months included creative storytelling, exploring culture and identity and building skills to manage anxiety. We explored the meditation practice she had been taught in her home country, and practiced additional calming techniques including visualisation and artwork. Over six months Susan developed more language to describe her and others' emotions, greater confidence to express her feelings and wishes, and stronger peer relationships.

Goal Two

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



Training

Companion House continued to deliver training and community education program aimed at:

- Increasing understanding of the refugee experience
- Building skills in working with survivors of torture and trauma.
- Building skills in interpreter use
- Cross cultural awareness.

During the 2015 – 16 year we facilitated 46 training sessions with a total of 589 participants from 68 Government and community agencies in Canberra and Queanbeyan.

Advocacy

Companion House worked with services, policy makers and funders to advocate regarding:

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

Education Forum

The ACT Parents and Citizens Council, the ACT Principals Association and Companion House co-sponsored the 2016 Me and My School Forum.

The forum succeeded in its aims to:

- Foster a greater understanding of the difficulties and perspectives of families from refugee backgrounds
- Share good practice and resources,
- Inspire schools to focus more on engaging families from refugee backgrounds.

Companion House and partnering organisations received a 2016 ACTCOSS partnership award for this collaboration.

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

We worked with a number of refugee communities to foster the considerable strengths and skills within the community and to assist people in their transition to life in Australia.

We had a strong focus on health promotion over the year.

This work is only possible through the ongoing support and guidance from leaders and peer mentors from each community.

Highlights included:

- Fresh produce gardens at Pialligo involving 56 participants, regular fresh produce markets, annual harvest, sharing of produce and community meal
- Gym, exercise classes, swimming and nutrition sessions for women
- Cricket, tennis, and cooking with Tamil men, and others
- Football and social activities and health promotion with young men from Afghanistan
- Self defence and discussion groups for young women from Afghanistan
- Futsal and Master Chef with Karen community members
- Walking groups and yoga for older community members
- Bushwalking groups for women
- Nutrition information sessions with peer mentors
- Workshops and discussion groups on alcohol and tobacco, health and peer education for young people
- White Card training, employment support and linking for community members
- School holiday activities for children and their families (Family tennis, AFL clinic)
- Careers advice and establishment of training pathways for young asylum seekers
- Driver's licence scholarships for newly arrived people

Migration Advice and Assistance

Over 2015-16 we managed the Immigration Advice and Application Assistance Scheme (IAAAS) for the ACT.

Under the IAAAS we provided:

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

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

Emergency Financial Relief and Donated Goods

Over 2015-16 we granted emergency relief assistance to 165 people, mainly bus tickets, pantry vouchers, fuel cards and assistance with medications

We also:

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

We note that 70 percent of this work was funded by private donations, particularly from the Four Tonnes Project led by Four Winds Vineyard.

After receiving work rights a single asylum seeker was always looking for a job. He visited Companion House regularly for medical, immigration and other social supports. Companion House then helped him obtain a tax file number and a white card for construction work. Within six-months this hard working man found himself a painting job and now visits Companion House in full work wear covered in paint. He is full of confidence for the next steps of his life journey.

Goal Four

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

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

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

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

Education Pathways for Young Asylum Seekers

Companion House entered into an alliance with the University of Canberra to ensure five young asylum seekers were able to access tertiary education in 2016, who would otherwise had to pay international student fees.

The University is providing generous scholarships to the five students and Companion house is fundraising fees (equivalent to HECS) for each student. Students completed a very successful first semester in 2016. This has only been possible due to the generosity of private donors and the Snow Foundation.

Companion House also worked with ACT policy makers and the Education Directorate to establish pathways for young asylum seekers needing to access vocational education.

Migration Advice and Assistance for Asylum Seekers who Arrived in Australia by Boat

Companion House sourced and worked with 15 migration agents over 2014-2016. We supported agents by providing interpreters, office space, organising appointments and paying for work when we have donations to do so. We facilitated support to 125 asylum seekers for primary claims and appeals processes over the same period.

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

Ongoing Initiatives

In previous years Companion House has also initiated and worked closely with partner organisations to ensure asylum seeker access to local services and housing for vulnerable men. Over 2015-16 we continued to collaborate with:

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

"Being able to continue my study is the only thing that gives me hope. Otherwise I am just lost in time and space, losing my hope and future, alone"

19 year old asylum seeker

Goal Five

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

Companion House is a relatively small organisation with a modest budget and yet provides an extraordinary service to one of the most marginalised groups in the society – refugees and asylum seekers who often have histories of profound trauma caused by war, dislocation, flight, detention or torture……. Companion House is highly regarded within the sector as the organisation of choice in relation to asylum seekers and refugees as well as for its cross-cultural capability.

From the Quality, Innovation, Performance (QIP) Accreditation Report against the National Standards for Mental Health Services April 2015

Home

By Warsan Shire

no one leaves home unless
home is the mouth of a shark
you only run for the border
when you see the whole city running as well



Over 2015-16 Companion House focused strongly on continuous improvement and the achievement of quality standards.

Key achievements were:

- Successful accreditation in April 2016 by external assessors against the National Standards for Mental Health Services (NSMHS).
- Client focus groups and surveys and establishment of a client mental health reference group.
- Participation in Australian National University's Integrating Care Project, which analysed and documented the key elements of our service structure and service delivery.

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

Key Performance Indicators – organisational efficiency

1. 100% of organisational expenditure is dedicated to achievement of identified strategic priorities each financial cycle – **achieved.**
2. A minimum of 80% of total funds expended is dedicated to direct service delivery each financial year – **achieved at 83% of expended funds.**
3. Staff structure maintains 90% of staff in direct service delivery against strategic priorities each financial year – **achieved at 91%.**
4. Client to staff ratios are maintained and do not significantly decline in any given period each financial year – **achieved, client to staff ratios remained within 4% variation.**
5. Volume of service delivery to staff ratio do not significantly decline in any given period each financial year – **achieved ,total volume of service delivery remained within 3% of pervious year.**

Financial Report



Assisting Survivors of Torture and Trauma Incorporated

ABN 98 349 936 816

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A Poem: Colour of Us

The sky is blue but then it is not always
The water is colourless but then it can be blue.
The sun is bright but it is not always
The moon is white but it is not always.
If the sun, the moon, the water and the sky are colourless or changing
What colour is the human being?

Wagaru Mon, Canberra
(26 August 2016)

BOARD REPORT

The Members of the Board present their report on the Association for the year ended 30 June 2016.

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

R. Verma
T. Matulick
K. Ragless
K. Woodward
K. Ryan
G. Scott (until October 2015)
M. Brown (until October 2015)
J. Cribb (from October 2015)
E. Browne (until October 2015)
I. Losoncz (from October 2015)
K. Middleton (from October 2015)
V. Blanpain (from October 2015)

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

Significant Changes in State of Affairs
No significant changes in the associations state of affairs occurred during the year.

Operating Results
The loss of the Association for the year amounted to $12,470 (2015 - loss $67,088).

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

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

..... (Board Member) **Date** 28/9/16

..... (Board Member) **Date** 28/9/16

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

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

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

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Companion House Assisting Survivors of Torture and Trauma Incorporated as at 30th June 2016 and its performance for the year ended on that date.

2. comply with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1; and

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

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

..... (Board Member) **Date** 28/9/16

..... (Board Member) **Date** 28/9/16

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

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2016 there have been no contraventions of:

(a) the auditor independence requirements under section 60-40 of the ACNC Act in relation to the audit; and

(b) any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Thomas Davis & Co. J.G. Ryan

THOMAS DAVIS & CO. J G Ryan Partner

SYDNEY,
Date: 28th September 2016

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.

THOMAS DAVIS & CO
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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 2016, 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.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the ACNC Act and any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report is in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. Presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Companion House Assisting Survivors of Torture and Trauma Incorporated, as of 30 June 2016, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and 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: 28th September 2016

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30TH JUNE 2016

	Note	2016 $	2015 $
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	292,347	226,451
Trade and other receivables	3	41,968	64,810
Investments	4	27,783	27,046
Total current assets		362,098	318,307
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	5	66,849	86,867
Total Non-Current assets		66,849	86,867
Total assets		428,947	405,174
Current liabilities			
Creditors and accruals	6	26,810	58,742
Grants received in advance	7	75,428	13,000
Provisions	8(a)	102,424	95,900
Total current liabilities		204,662	167,642
Non-Current liabilities			
Provisions	8(b)	37,211	37,988
Total Non-Current liabilities		37,211	37,988
Total liabilities		241,873	205,630
Net assets		187,074	199,544
Members' funds			
Retained profits/(losses)	9	187,074	199,544
Total members' funds		187,074	199,544

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	Note	2016 $	2015 $
Revenue		1,841,543	1,880,441
Employee Benefits		(1,323,217)	(1,413,102)
Amortisation and Depreciation		(20,018)	(24,214)
Other Expenses		(510,778)	(510,213)
Profit / (Loss) before Income tax		(12,470)	(67,088)
Income Tax Expense	1(c)	-	-
Profit / (Loss) after Income tax		(12,470)	(67,088)
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-
Total comprehensive income attributable to the members of the association		(12,470)	(67,088)

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN MEMBERS' FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	2016 $	2015 $
Accumulated Surplus - Beginning of Year	199,544	266,632
Profit / (Loss) after Income Tax	(12,470)	(67,088)
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-
Accumulated Surplus at 30 June 2016	187,074	199,544

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	Note	2016 $ Inflows (Outflows)	2015 $ Inflows (Outflows)
Cash flows from operating activities			
Interest received		2,667	6,569
Grants & Medical Programs received		1,793,097	1,766,065
Other receipts		130,312	102,168
Payments to suppliers and employees		(1,860,180)	(1,965,924)
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	12	65,896	(91,122)
Cash flow from investing activities			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		-	(3,246)
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities		-	(3,246)
Cash flow from financing activities			
Hire purchase and lease payments		-	(31,361)
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities		-	(31,361)
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held		65,896	(125,729)
Cash at the beginning of the financial year		226,451	352,180
Cash at the end of the financial year	2	292,347	226,451

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

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.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

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 2016

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.

	2016 $	2015 $
NOTE 2 - CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash at bank & on hand	292,347	226,451
	292,347	226,451
NOTE 3 - TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES		
Trade Debtors	32,121	52,343
Deposits	-	2,550
GST Receivable	9,847	9,917
	41,968	64,810
NOTE 4 - INVESTMENTS		
Term Deposit	27,783	27,046
	27,783	27,046

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	2016 $	2015 $
NOTE 5 - PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Building Improvements at cost	17,215	17,215
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(4,330)	(3,533)
	12,885	13,682
Plant and Equipment at cost	91,195	91,195
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(62,702)	(50,875)
	28,493	40,320
Motor Vehicles at cost	68,934	68,934
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(43,463)	(36,069)
	25,471	32,865
TOTAL PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	66,849	86,867
NOTE 6 - TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES		
Sundry Creditors and Accruals	26,810	58,742
	26,810	58,742
NOTE 7 - OTHER LIABILITIES		
Grants Received in Advance	75,428	13,000
	75,428	13,000
NOTE 8 - PROVISIONS		
a. Current		
Annual Leave	102,424	95,900
	102,424	95,900
b. Non-Current		
Long Service Leave	37,211	37,988
	37,211	37,988

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	2016 $	2015 $
NOTE 9 - RETAINED PROFIT/(LOSS)		
Balance at the beginning of the year	199,544	266,632
Profit/(loss) for the year	(12,470)	(67,088)
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Balance at the end of the year	187,074	199,544
NOTE 10 - RECONCILIATION OF CASH FLOWS		
Operating profit / (loss) from ordinary activities after income tax	(12,470)	(67,088)
Non cash items		
Amortisation and depreciation	20,018	24,214
Reinvested interest on investments	(737)	(824)
Change in operating assets and liabilities		
(Increase) / decrease in trade and other receivables	22,842	55,718
Increase / (decrease) in trade and other payables	(31,932)	(22,448)
Increase / (decrease) in income in advance	62,428	(73,000)
Increase / (decrease) in employee provisions	5,747	(8,518)
Cash flows provided by / (used in) operating activities	65,896	(91,946)

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:

Four Tonnes Project – Four Winds Vineyard, Collector Wines and Eden Road Wines for generous donations and fundraising – many thanks.

Psychiatrist network: Dr John Saboisky, Dr Meredith Whiting, Dr Kate Lubbe, and Dr Ann Harrison, Dr Emma Adams.

Our generous probono migration agents: David Chen, James Brown, Ruth Haigh, Marion Le, Ebenezer Banful, Fragomens, Marianne Dickie, Er-Kai Wang, Jessica Kinsella, Michaela Byers.

University of Canberra for provision of scholarships to asylum seeker students.

The leaders and peer mentors from all the refugee communities we work with particularly Manoranjitham Ramachandran, Peter Kuot, Mustafa Ehsan, Zelai Chinzah, Poe Wah, Bu Doh Wah and Velupillai Ariyaratnam Balasuthanthira.

The volunteers supporting the migration agents by assisting people with filling of forms – Carolyn Toms, Christine Stewart, Jenny Rae, Gabriela Samcewicz , Carol Patrick and Peter Williams.

Dr Andrew Miller, Dr Tuan Phan, Dr Eric Ho and Dr Kate Drummond for providing accessible specialist services to vulnerable people.

Dr Fell and staff at Canberra Implant and Periodontal Centre.

Southside Physiotherapy.

Phoenix Knitters and South Woden Craft Group.

Anne Marie Nicholls for donation of rental property at cost, Brothers Matt and John Giacon for sharing their home with asylum seekers, John and Di Davison –Mowle, Julie Demicoli and Peter Shrays for giving young asylum seekers a home.

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

Fred Fawke for shifting furniture and donated goods.

Jamal Halal for weekly donations of fresh produce and Rosie Done for delivering it.

Digby Habel for doing lots of practical jobs on call.

Jenny McGee for bringing weekly delivery of donated bread from Brumby's bakery in Lyneham.

Café Ink for donated food.

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

Sue Gair (pro bono Yoga Teacher).

With thanks for fundraising from O'Connor Coop Early Childhood School, University of Canberra Refugee Action Club, Australian Catholic University Refugee Action Club, St Pauls Church Manuka, St Francis Xavier College, Dickson College and South Woden Uniting Church.

With thanks to the many very generous individual donors from the Canberra community who made our work possible.

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