Companion House

2020 – 21
Annual Report



Companion House

Patrons, Board, Staff and Funding

PATRONS

Justice Elizabeth Evatt AO
Professor William Maley AM

BOARD

Chair:
Tara Gutman (from October 28 2020), Ibolya Losoncz (before October 28 2020)
Secretary:
Ellie Pahlow
Treasurer:
Diva Mahesan Divakaran (from October 28 2020), Rahul Verma (until October 28 2020)
Members:
Tara Gutman (until October 28 2020), Manar Ahmad, Rebecca Harnett (until April 2021), Diva Mahesa (until October 28 2020), Mustafa Ewazi (from October 28 2020), Polly Hemming (from October 13 2021)

STAFF

Director: Kathy Ragless

COUNSELLING TEAM

Team Leader: Ina Toumoua
Counsellor: Children - Sam Storey
Counsellors: Elizabeth Price, Amelia Ishikawa, Vaneitha Balakrishnan, Mary Pekin
Physiotherapist: Therese Keily-Wynter

COMMUNITY AND TRAINING TEAM

Team Leader: Glenn Flanagan
Projects and casework:
Hongsar Channaibanya
Casework: Jennifer Tode
Diabetes Project: Cleo Fleming
Healthy Happy Life Project: Saba Rawdhan

MEDICAL TEAM

Team Leader: Ally McGurgan
Practice Nurses: Stacey Graham, Jane Desbourgh
Support staff: Silvia Salas Meyer, Andrew Sein and Pam Mitchell
Medical Clinical Director:
Dr Christine Phillips
Clinical Support Doctor: Dr Sue Baglow
GPs: Dr Katrina Anderson, Dr Joo-Inn Chew, Dr Bernadette McKay, Dr Fred Chung, Tom McGuire
Visiting Clinicians: Dr Amaryah Paul (psychiatrist), Dr Jarrod Holst (psychiatrist), Dr Kate Drummond (dermatologist)
Surge support clinicians: Dr Bec Karthage, Dr Bethan McDonald, Lisa Clements

OPERATIONS TEAM

Team Leade: Loan Freeman
Accountant: Oki Widodo
Admin/Reception Staff: Andrew Sein, Pam Mitchell
IT and special projects: Jeannie McLellan (to December 2020)
IT contractor: Forward IT with special thanks to Hal Hrovje Grabic.

MIGRATION AGENTS (PRO BONO)

Jenny Rae
Jennifer Tode

FUNDING

We acknowledge the following funding bodies and partners for their financial support:
Commonwealth Department of Health - Program Assisting Survivors of Torture and Trauma (PASTT - counselling, training and community capacity building)
Commonwealth Department of Social Services - Emergency Relief and Prevention of Domestic Violence Project
ACT Government Health Directorate - counselling, and primary health services, health promotion projects
ACT Government Community Services Directorate - children's program, community development program activities, work with young people, training and casework with families, Asylum Seekers Access Card project
Snow Foundation - University fees
Multicultural Employment Services - Employment support services
Duo Life without Barriers - Community Assistance Program (CASP)

Key Partners

ACT Dental Program
ACT Mental Health
ACT Council of Social Service
ACT Health Community Pediatrics Registrar Program
ACT Parents and Citizens Association
ACT Pathology
Adult Migrant English Program (Navitas English)
Ainslie Village
ASEC (Australian Security Education & Consulting Pty Ltd)
Australia-Karen Organisation of the ACT
Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS)
Australian Islamic Medical Alliance
Australian National University Medical School Academic Unit (AUGP)
Australian Red Cross
Canberra Institute of Technology
Canberra Refugee Support (CRS)
Capital Pathology
Canberra Community Law Centre
Canberra Institute of Technology English Language Centre
Diabetes NSW and ACT
Refugee Bridging Program, Dickson College Secondary Introductory English Centre
Forcibly Displaced Peoples Network
Forum of Australian Services for Survivors of Torture and Trauma (FASSTT)
Foodbank
Helping ACT
International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT)
Jocelyn Pederick, Goodmorningbeautiful Films
Kippax Care Pantry – Uniting Care Kippax
Lauren Wells, Nia Dance Instructor
Legal Aid ACT
Little Athletics
Multicultural Employment Service and Multicultural Hub
Multicultural Youth Affairs Network (MYAN)
National Capital Diagnostic Imaging
Ochre Health Medical Centre in Bruce
Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA)
QTIC – Quality Training in Construction
Relationships Australia
Refugee Council of Australia
Spectacle Subsidy Scheme
St Vincent de Paul
University of Canberra
Snow Foundation
Psychiatrist Network: Dr John Saboisky, Dr Meredith Whiting, and Dr Ann Harrison
Migration Agents Network: Marion Le, Owen Harris, Liz Hug, Hugh Wyndham

Vision

A community that supports the health, wellbeing and human rights of people who come to Australia seeking protection from persecution, war and torture.

Mission

Advance the health, well-being and human rights of people who have sought safety in Australia from persecution, torture and war.



Principles of Service

1

We promote and respect human rights encompassing the values of respect, dignity and equality for every person.

2

We acknowledge and respect the strength of our clients and promote self-determination and informed choice.

3

We foster professionalism through evidence based practice, our accountability to clients and the community, and strong staff collegiality.

4

We foster partnership and collaboration with clients, partners, funders and community.

5

We work within a framework of recovery that is based on building safety and control, fostering connections and belonging, and building meaning, justice and dignity.

Companion House Goals

Goal 1:

Survivors of torture and trauma are supported to achieve good health, wellbeing and trauma recovery.

Goal 2:

The community welcomes asylum seekers and people from a refugee background, and is sensitive to the needs and strengths of survivors of torture and trauma.

Goal 3:

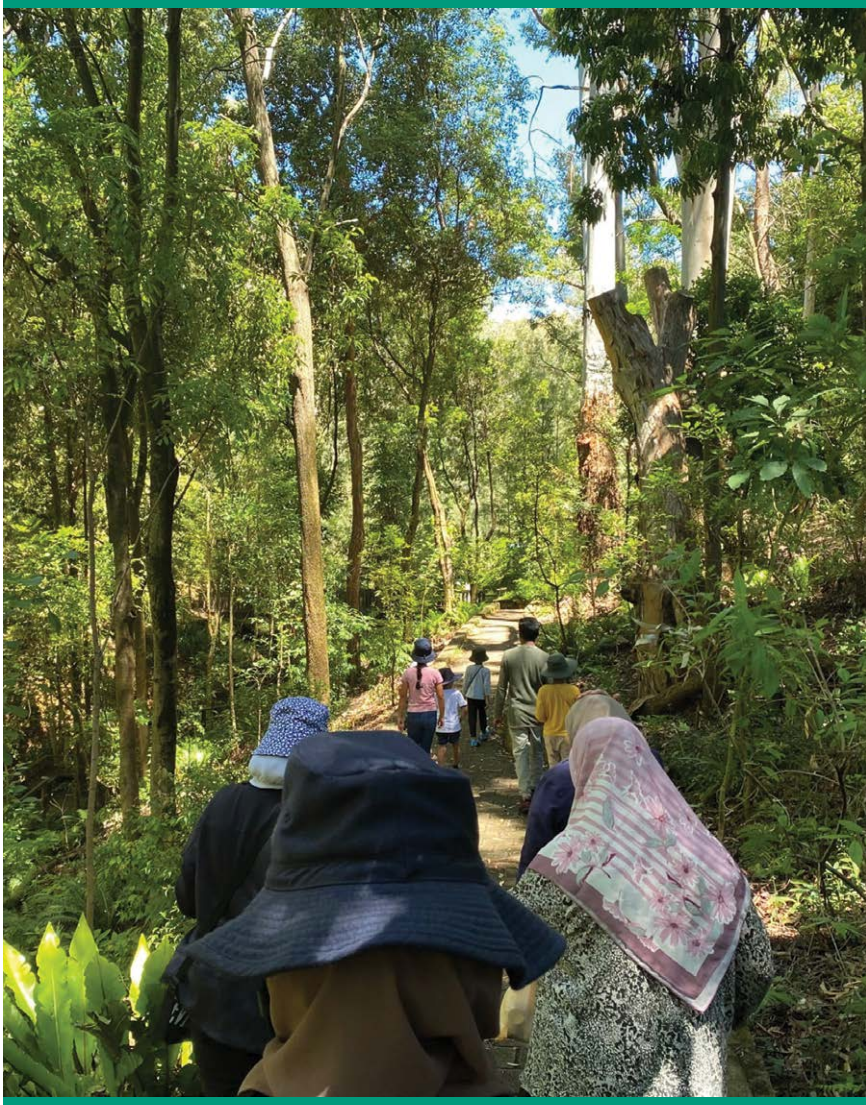
Communities affected by torture and trauma are strong, resilient and skilled to enable them to thrive in Australia.

Goal 4:

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

Goal 5:

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



Healthy Happy Life is a Companion House project funded through ACT Health to support walks, activities and staying active with Arabic speaking families and community members. On one of our walks we visited the Botanic Gardens in Canberra, a beautiful place to walk (and even run) with friends and family.



Karen Master Chef 2020: The ACT Karen community prepared delicious food under the eyes of the judges and happy and hungry onlookers. As well as food we also shared posters and messages created by young people with strong and inspiring messages of respect.

From the Chairperson & Director

2020-2021 was dominated by Covid-19 issues and concerns. We adopted many new processes and protocols, to comply with health orders and best practice to make our organisation as safe as possible. We started Covid-19 vaccination clinics in April, restructured our office and clinical spaces and worked hard to keep our organisation flourishing. Face to face work and group programs re-opened in August 2020 and continued over the rest of the financial year. For a brief window we were able to have some significant gatherings which had to end with the most recent health emergency. We look forward to the time we can bring the Companion House community together again, although this looks some time away yet.

We remained firmly focused on our primary health care and counselling services, which make up the important core of our work. We were also very pleased to have been able to expand physiotherapy services to treat pain and distress. Casework services, focused strongly on people with a disability and asylum seekers, continued to grow. Community services focused on health promotion, community capacity building, migration and asylum seeker support. We maintained our commitment to our scholarship program, assistance with training and skills building, assistance with emergency housing and other unfunded needs using donor funds.

This activity is all aimed at facilitating the healing of survivors of torture and trauma across mind, body and spirit. Of course there are many barriers to this mission. Key issues over the year behind us include: the punitive government policies in place for people who arrived by boat, the devastating mental health impact for those who had extended stays in Australian detention centres, lack of access to family reunion, long visa processing times, deepening poverty as a result of the pandemic and widespread housing stress and homelessness. The issues we heard most about from people over the year were, firstly, the distress of long term separation from family and, secondly, poverty and housing stress.



Despite this sobering list of barriers there is also no end to the resilience, bravery and rebuilding of the people we work with. Also important to note is that the pandemic laid bare the disproportionate contribution of asylum seekers and people from a refugee background as essential workers, described in a short film we produced over the year, *On the Frontlines: Canberra's Covid-19 Essential Workforce*.

We thank, above all else, Companion House staff for their commitment and flexibility. And, as usual, we are grateful to the Board for its commitment and support. It has been a pleasure to work with funders, members, donors, partners and friends over the year - thank you.

Tara Gutman, Chairperson
Kathy Ragless, AM, Director

Service highlights over 2020 – 2021

Medical

Health services for people from a refugee background and asylum seekers with a strong focus on long appointments, interpreter use and accessible and respectful health care.

1240
medical patients used primary health care services at Companion House with an average 816 patients each 6 months using the service.

Service is staffed by
5
GPs, 3 practice nurses, visiting psychiatrists and specialist and paediatric registrar position.

2228
hours of GP consults and 1180 of nurse consults over the year.

A weekly paediatric clinic provided services to
75
children.

Monthly psychiatric clinic for adults provided psychiatric reports and diagnostic and medication support for
31
people.

Monthly psychiatric clinic for children providing psychiatric reports and diagnostic and medication support in
22
consultations with 11 children.

Covid-19 vaccine clinic for people with health vulnerabilities from April 2021.

Patient navigators provided
300
hours of coordination for internal and external appointments.

Coordination of ongoing complex care for
20
households with complex conditions and disabilities.

Counselling

Counselling services for people from torture and trauma backgrounds across the age spectrum focused on symptom relief, using clinical frameworks based in person centred and respectful care

232
adults and young people used torture and trauma counselling services.

Service is staffed by
6
part time counsellors from psychology or social work backgrounds and a physiotherapist.

26
children participated in groups and individual counselling.

Intensive family support to
10
families of children in counselling services.

51
people used physiotherapy services for treatment of pain and distress.

Nia dance sessions over 3 months for
20
women.

Community work

Partnerships with community utilising community strength and capacity

Gather Listen Celebrate:
Listening to community members about experiences during the pandemic and acknowledge contribution of essential workers

Organised
8
community seminars and consultations about experiences during the pandemic.

Groups consulted included: women, Spanish speaking communities, Arabic speaking communities, Karen community, LGBTIQ+ community members, young people, and asylum seekers.

Created short film On the Frontlines: Canberra's Covid-19 Essential Workforce and shared on social media.

Women's Healthy Life:
Preventing Diabetes with women from 4 language backgrounds

Facilitated Diabetes Training sessions and support for
8
bilingual community educators.

Organised information sessions run by bilingual educators (face to face and online) in four languages (Spanish, Arabic, Tamil, Karen).

Coordinated outdoor activities with Diabetes information sharing with four language communities.

Shared translated resources on Diabetes prevention with participants.

Healthy Happy Life:
Healthy activity and eating for Arabic speaking community members

Organised regular Family and Community Walks and visits to playgrounds.

Coordinated Family Fun Days: activities and active games for children and families.

Translated and distributed resources on healthy eating, drinking and active play.

Created and shared new resources on local Canberra parks, playgrounds and walking trails in English and Arabic.

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities Leading Prevention:
Young people sharing their messages of respect and preventing family and gender based violence

Young people shared messages of respect and preventing family and gender based violence at community events, group discussions and through social media

Supported community led events to share messages: Awards nights, Master Chef, Football

Shared 7 YouTube short films viewed over
15,000
times so far

Shared Posters, resources and printed messages at community events

Held regular Youth Advisory Group meetings to guide our project



As part of our Healthy Happy Life project everyone had fun with Little Athletics.



Casework and Advocacy

Casework and advocacy with priority for torture survivors, families with children, young people, asylum seekers and temporary refugee visa holders

Casework and advocacy services were used by

225

asylum seekers and people from a refugee background.

Service is staffed by

4

caseworkers with an average of 15 years work experience each in casework with asylum seekers and people from a refugee background.

Focused on housing, disability, and a wide range of other life issues.

Provided

90

households from asylum seeker and refugee backgrounds financial assistance over Covid-19 period.



Training to other organisations

Training with other organisations to build understanding, skills and capacity

Training to

588

participants in 48 health, welfare and community agencies and groups over the year. Sessions were focused on working with survivors of torture and trauma, cross cultural skills and interpreter use.

ACT Asylum Seeker Access card

Grant of entitlement and ID card to enable asylum seeker access to ACT Government funded services in partnership with Office of Regulatory services (ORS) and continue to build systems and data collection in partnership with Office of Multicultural Affairs

Granted

295

ACT Asylum Seeker Access Cards over 2020-2021 in partnership with Office of Regulatory Services (ORS)

Maintained Access Card database and reported data to Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA).



Education and employment

Services, advocacy and partnerships to build pathways to education and employment

Worked in partnership with Multicultural Employment Service to source employment and training pathways to register

65

job seekers including work on resumes, mentoring, finding training opportunities and referral to employers.

Supported

4

tertiary students on Safe Haven Enterprise Visas (SHEV) with university fees and living costs and maintained strong partnerships with University of Canberra.

Financial support to

22

young people and asylum seekers to access vocational training, career planning and gain drivers licences, including 3 asylum seekers studying enrolled nursing at CIT.

Emergency Relief and housing support

Food, transport, medication and housing relief for people living in poverty and destitution.

Food, bus tickets, donated goods, food vouchers, payment of essential medications, access to external medical services and rental payments for

180

people in financial distress, mainly asylum seekers.

Secretariat to Acute Rental support Coordination Committee (ARSCC), providing rental support with Canberra Refugee Support, St Vincent de Paul and Red Cross to ensure asylum seekers families do not become homeless.

Ongoing financial support for accommodation for

9

families and individuals.

Migration Advice and Assistance

Specialist advice and assistance to assist people navigate Australian migration systems to enable family reunion, establishment of refugee claims and citizenship application.

On site migration advice and application assistance sessions for

35

people seeking advice and assistance with asylum seeker claims, family reunion issues and citizenship.

Worked with off-site agents to refer/ fund/support a mixture of pro bono and paid work for

31

asylum seekers, SHEV holders and people seeking family reunion.

Most common languages

Farsi
Dari
Arabic
Karen
Tamil
Spanish

Most common country of birth

Afghanistan
Burma
Iran
Iraq
Sri Lanka
El Salvador

Key advocacy and human rights issues

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

Access to social entitlements, particularly social housing

Support for asylum seekers without income living in destitution over Covid-19 period

Asylum seekers service access in the ACT, particularly school education

Use of interpreters in service delivery across service systems, particularly in the health system

Asylum seeker access to migration advice and assistance

Health effects of long term detention on clients in indefinite detention

Anti-torture advocacy

Access to education for young people on temporary refugee visas.

Key Performance Indicators



Efficiency indicators

1

100% of organisational expenditure is dedicated to achievement of identified strategic priorities each financial cycle.

➤ achieved 100% 2020-2021

2

A minimum of 75% of total funds expended is dedicated to direct service delivery each financial year

➤ 78% 2020-2021

3

Staff structure maintains 80% of staff in direct service delivery against strategic priorities each financial year

➤ 82% 2020-2021

4

Overall client to staff ratios are maintained within 10% variation of 1:50 and do not significantly decline or increase in any given period each financial year.

➤ within variation 2020-2021

5

Staff retention rates do not fall below the range of 8 average years of service or annual staff turnover of less than 10% in a year

➤ achieved at 2% staff turnover 2020-2021, 9 years average length of service

Mission indicators

1

Survivors of torture and trauma who used Companion House maintained/improved physical and mental health and reported well-being and social benefits from engagement with our organisation: target percentage of 70%.

➤ achieved at 75% 2020-2021

2

Local community built understanding of refugees and survivors of torture and trauma: target of 300 people in training annually

➤ achieved 2020-2021

3

Our organisation influenced public policy directions at the local level in the area of asylum seekers policy: target of 2 key policy areas

➤ achieved impact on public policy directions on income support for asylum seekers and increase in discretionary fund over Covid-19 period

4

Local communities affected by torture and trauma built skills and knowledge in employment and training pathways: target of 100 people

➤ 79 people in 2020-2021

5

We build partnerships and better access to services for vulnerable people through maintenance of existing partnerships and formation of new formal alliances in identified sectors of need: target 2 new formal strategic partnerships each year.

➤ achieved with health promotion partners over 2020 and 2021

6

We can demonstrate commitment to continuous improvement through accreditation against mental health and primary health care standards

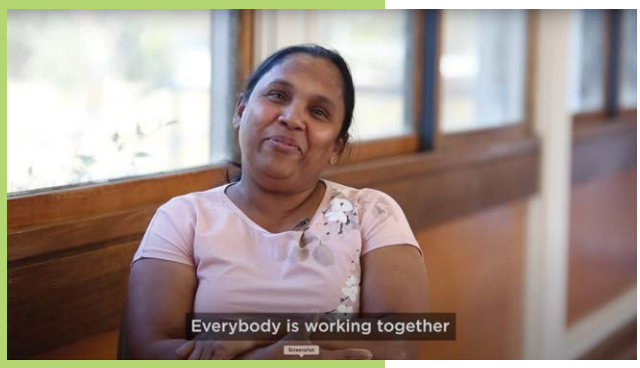
➤ achieved RACGP accreditation 2018-2021 and achieved second round of National Standards for Mental Health Services in September 2019-2020 and successfully completed mid term review in July 2021

On the Frontlines

Australia's Covid-19 Essential Workforce

Companion House launched our new short film *On the Frontlines: Canberra's Covid-19 Essential Workforce* acknowledging the contribution of local Canberra community members from refugee communities working as essential workers during the pandemic lockdown and public health emergency.



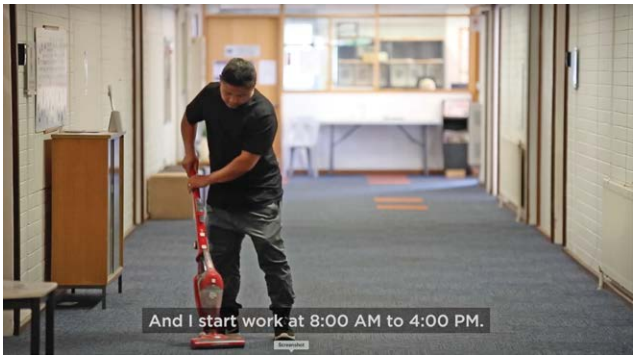












Financial Report

Companion House

Assisting Survivors of Torture and Trauma Incorporated

ABN 98 349 936 816

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Donor Funds

Thans to the generosity of private donors we are able to grant funds to people experiencing poverty, predominantly asylum seekers, people with disabilities and single parented households.

General support (mainly asylum seekers) $57,449 of donor funds was granted to people in need with largest items being:

Emergency accommodation $16,156, medications $9764, utilities and phone bills $4542, migration support $3998, travel and car $2967, medical needs $2821, vouchers $1707, sports and recreation $1505, dental $1041, optical $1008, training $1090.

Scholarships (asylum seekers or SHEV holders) $25,007.50 on university fees and enrolled nursing fees at CIT for seven students from asylum seeker/SHEV backgrounds.

Board Report

The Members of the Board present their report on Companion House Assisting Survivors of Torture and Trauma Incorporated "the Association" for the year ended 30 June 2021.

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

T. Gutman (Chair from 28 October 2020)
D. Mahesan Divakaran (Treasurer from 28 October 2020)
E. Pahlow (Secretary)
M. Ahmad
R. Harnett (until 20 April 2021)
P. Hemming (from 13 October 2021)
I. Losoncz (Chair until 28 October 2020)
R. Verma (Treasurer until 28 October 2020)
K. Ragless
M. Ali
M. Ewazi (from 28 October 2020)

Principal Activities

Companion House is a non government community based organisation working with adults and chlidren who have sought safety in Australia from persecution, torture and war related trauma. The organisation provides medical, counselling and a range of community services. There was no change 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 surplus of the Association for the year amounted to $1,334 (2020 - $57,331).

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.

Tara Gutman
Chair

Date 15/10/21

Diva Mahesan Divakaran
Treasurer

Date 15/10/21

COMPANION HOUSE ASSISTING
SURVIVORS OF TORTURE AND TRAUMA INCORPORATED
A.B.N. 98 349 936 816

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 outlined 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 profit or loss and other 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 2021 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.



Tara Gutman
Chair

Date 15/10/21



Diva Mahesan Divakaran
Treasurer

Date 15/10/21

THOMAS DAVIS & CO
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
ESTABLISHED 1894

www.thomasdavis.com.au
mail@thomasdavis.com.au

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 2021 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.

THOMAS DAVIS & CO.

J G Ryan

J G RYAN PARTNER

Chartered Accountants

SYDNEY,
Date: 15 October 2021

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Companion House Assisting Survivors of Torture and Trauma Incorporated, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2021, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in members' funds and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the Board Members' declaration.

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

(a) giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June, 2021 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and

(b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards.Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110: Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

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

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

Responsibilities of the Board Members for the Financial Report

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

In preparing the financial report, the Board Members are responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Board Members either intend to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

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

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board Members.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Board Members' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

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

Thomas Davis & Co.

THOMAS DAVIS & CO.

J.G. Ryan

J G Ryan Partner

Chartered Accountants

SYDNEY,
Date: 15 October 2021

COMPANION HOUSE ASSISTING
SURVIVORS OF TORTURE AND TRAUMA INCORPORATED
A.B.N. 98 349 936 816

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30TH JUNE 2021

	Note	2021 $	2020 $
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	664,116	645,521
Trade and other receivables	4	41,725	13,241
Investments	5	30,730	30,424
Total current assets		736,571	689,186
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	6	22,733	30,028
Total Non-Current assets		22,733	30,028
Total assets		759,304	719,214
Current liabilities			
Creditors and accruals	7	68,813	73,194
Contract liabilities	8	181,031	166,182
Provisions	9	226,460	198,172
Total current liabilities		476,304	437,548
Total liabilities		476,304	437,548
Net assets		283,000	281,666
Members' funds			
Retained surplus/(deficit)	10	283,000	281,666
Total members' funds		283,000	281,666

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

COMPANION HOUSE ASSISTING
SURVIVORS OF TORTURE AND TRAUMA INCORPORATED
A.B.N. 98 349 936 816

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	Note	2021 $	2020 $
Revenue		2,613,122	2,435,570
Employee Benefits		(1,573,833)	(1,481,290)
Depreciation		(7,295)	(7,961)
Computer Expenses		(27,641)	(24,804)
Insurance		(110,186)	(64,336)
Medical Contracts and Expenses		(248,464)	(239,834)
Program and Donation Expenditure		(461,661)	(408,982)
Rental Expenses		(26,713)	(35,289)
Other Expenses		(155,995)	(115,743)
Surplus / (Deficit) before Income tax		1,334	57,331
Income Tax Expense	1(c)	-	-
Surplus / (Deficit) after Income tax		1,334	57,331
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-
Total comprehensive income attributable to the members of the association		1,334	57,331

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

COMPANION HOUSE ASSISTING
SURVIVORS OF TORTURE AND TRAUMA INCORPORATED
A.B.N. 98 349 936 816

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN MEMBERS' FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	2021 $	2020 $
Accumulated Surplus - Beginning of Year	281,666	224,335
Surplus / (Deficit) after Income Tax	1,334	57,331
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-
Accumulated Surplus - End of Year	283,000	281,666

COMPANION HOUSE ASSISTING
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STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	Note	2021 $ Inflows (Outflows)	2020 $ Inflows (Outflows)
Cash flows from operating activities			
Interest received		855	3,094
Grants received		2,386,538	2,279,011
Other receipts		211,788	229,023
Payments to suppliers and employees		(2,580,586)	(2,335,673)
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	12	18,595	175,455
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held		18,595	175,455
Cash at the beginning of the financial year		645,521	470,066
Cash at the end of the financial year	2	664,116	645,521

COMPANION HOUSE ASSISTING
SURVIVORS OF TORTURE AND TRAUMA INCORPORATED
A.B.N. 98 349 936 816

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

NOTE 1 - STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Financial Reporting Framework

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 as there a no users dependent on general purpose financial statements.

Statement of Compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the mandatory Australian Accounting Standards applicable to entities reporting under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, the basis of accounting specified by all Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations, and the disclosure requirements of Accounting Standards AASB 101: Presentation of Financial Statements, AASB 107: Cash Flow Statements, AASB 108: Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors, AASB 1031: Materiality and AASB 1054: Australian Additional Disclosures.

The association has concluded that the requirements set out in AASB 10 and AASB 128 are not applicable as the initial assessment on its interests in other entities indicate that it does not have any subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures. Hence, the financial statements comply with all the recognition and measurement requirements in Australian Accounting Standards.

Basis of Preparation

The financial report, except for cash flow information, 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.

Accounting Policies

(a) Revenue recognition

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable. Amounts disclosed as revenue are net of taxes paid. Revenue is recognised for categories of income as follows:

Grants and donations
Contributed assets

If the association receives assets from the government and other parties for nil or nominal consideration in order to further its objectives, these assets would be recognised in accordance with the recognition requirement of other applicable standards (AASB 9, AASB 16, AASB 116 and AASB 138).

NOTE 1 - STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(a) Revenue recognition (continued)

On initial recognition of an asset, the association recognises related amounts (being contribution from owners, lease liabilities, financial instruments, revenue or contract liabilities arising from a contract with a

The association recognises income immediately in profit and loss and the difference between the initial carrying amount and the asset and the related amount.

Operating grants and donations

When the association receives operating grant revenue or donations, it assesses whether the contract is enforceable and has sufficient specific performance obligations in accordance with AASB 15. When both these conditions are satisfied the association identifies each performance obligation relating to the grant, recognises a contract liability for these obligations and recognises revenue as it satisfies its performance obligations.

Where the contract is not enforceable or does not have sufficiently specific performance obligations the association either recognises the asset received in accordance with the requirements of other applicable accounting standards, recognises related amounts or recognises income immediately in profit and loss as the difference between the initial carrying amount of the asset and the related amount.

If a contract liability is recognised as a related amount above, the association recognises income in profit and loss when or as it satisfies its obligations under the contract.

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable. Amounts disclosed as revenue are net of taxes paid. Revenue is recognised for the items as follows:

Interest received

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 generally recognised as revenue when received. Contributions that are received for specific purposes are recognised as revenue when the funds are expended. Where those funds have not been fully spent at balance date this revenue is recognised in advance.

(b) Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee entitlements arsing from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee entitlements expected to be settled within one year, together with entitlements arising from wages and salaries, annual leave and long service leave which will be settled after one year, have been measured at their nominal amount.

(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.

NOTE 1 - STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(d) Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment are brought to account at cost, less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

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 and Other Equipment	10% to 40%	Diminishing balance
Motor Vehicles	22.5%	Diminishing balance
Improvements	5%	Straight line

(e) Impairment of assets

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

(f) Leases

Leases are recognised under Accounting Standard AASB 16: Leases. Applicable leases whether finance or operating in nature are to be recognised on the statement of financial position as liabilities with corresponding right-of-use assets. These leases are measured at their net present values and include future lease payments under an option where that option is reasonably expected to be taken up. The leases are amortised on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease. For operating leases that do not need to meet the requirements under this standard being leases that are less than 12 months or of minor values, and where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, these are recognised as expenses over the term of the lease.

(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 2021

NOTE 1 - STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(h) Financial instruments

Initial recognition and measurement

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the entity becomes party to the contractual provisions to the instrument. For financial assets, this is equivalent to the date that the association commits itself either purchase or sell the asset (trade date accounting is adopted).

Financial instruments are initially measured at fair value plus transaction costs except where the instrument is classified "at fair value through profit or loss", in which case transaction costs are expensed to profit or loss immediately.

Trade receivables are initially measured at transaction price if the trade receivables do not contain significant financing components.

Classification and subsequent measurement

Financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, amortised cost using the effective interest method, or cost. Where available, quoted prices in an active market are used to determine fair value. In other circumstances, valuation techniques are adopted.

Amortised cost is calculated as the amount at which the financial asset or financial liability is measured at initial recognition less principal repayments and any reduction for impairment, and adjusted for any cumulative amortisation of the difference between the initial amount and the maturity amount calculated using the effective interest method.

The effective interest method is used to allocate interest income or interest expense over the relevant period and is equivalent to the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments or receipts (including fees, transaction costs and other premiums or discounts) through the expected life (or when this cannot be reliably predicted, the contractual term) of the financial instrument to the net carrying amount of the financial asset or financial liability. Revisions to expected future net cash flows will necessitate an adjustment to the carrying amount with a consequential recognition of an income or expense item in profit or loss.

Fair value is determined based on current bid prices for all quoted investments. Valuation techniques are applied to determine the fair value for all unlisted securities, including recent arm's length transactions, reference to similar instruments and option pricing models.

As per AASB 9 an expected credit loss model is applied, and not an incurred credit loss model as per the previous applicable standard (AASB 139). To reflect changes in credit risk, this expected credit loss model requires the association to account for expected credit losses since initial recognition.

AASB 9 also determines that a loss allowance for expected credit loss be recognised on debt investments subsequently measured at amortised cost or at fair value through other comprehensive income, lease receivables, contract assets, loan commitments and financial guarantee contracts as the impairment provision would apply to them.

NOTE 1 - STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(h) Financial instruments (continued)

In the case of financial assets carried at amortised cost, loss events may include: indications that the debtors or a group of debtors are experiencing financial difficulty default or delinquency in interest or principal payments; indications that they will enter bankruptcy or other financial reorganisation; and changes in arrears or economic conditions that correlate with defaults.

If the credit risk on a financial instrument did not show significant change since initial recognition, an expected credit loss amount equal to the 12 month expected credit loss is used. However, a loss allowance is recognised at an amount equal to the lifetime expected credit loss if the credit risk on that financial instrument has increased significantly since initial recognition, or if the instrument is an acquired credit-impaired financial asset.

The association has adopted the simple approach under AASB 9 in relation to trade receivables, as the loss allowance is measured at the lifetime expected credit loss.

The association reviewed and assessed the existing financial assets on 1 July 2020. It was determined that there was no significant change in credit risk from the date they were initially recognised and no adjustment was required.

Derecognition

Financial assets are derecognised where the contractual rights to receipt of cash flows expire or the asset is transferred to another party whereby the entity no longer has any significant continuing involvement in the risks and benefits associated with the asset. Financial liabilities are derecognised where the related obligations are discharged, cancelled or have expired. The difference between the carrying amount of the financial liability, which is extinguished or transferred to another party, and the fair value of consideration paid, including the transfer of non-cash assets or liabilities assumed, is recognised in profit or loss.

(i) Trade and other payables

Trade and other payables represent liabilities for goods and services received by the association during the reporting period that remain unpaid at the end of the reporting period. The balance is recognised as a current liability with amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

(j) Goods and services tax

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

(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.

NOTE 1 - STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(k) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions recognised represent the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

(l) Economic Dependency

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

(m) Comparative Figures

Where necessary, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation in the current year.

(n) New and Amended Accounting Policies

The association has considered all new and amended accounting standards effective from 1 July, 2020.

	2021 $	2020 $
NOTE 2 - REVENUE		
Grants received	1,980,557	1,786,151
Medicare income	289,321	372,498
Donations received	240,048	188,058
Hall hire	43,902	30,467
Other income	8,133	4,723
Interest received	1,161	3,673
Government COVID-19 Stimulus	50,000	50,000
	2,613,122	2,435,570
NOTE 3 - CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash at bank & on hand	664,116	645,521
	664,116	645,521

COMPANION HOUSE ASSISTING
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A.B.N. 98 349 936 816

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	2021 $	2020 $
NOTE 4 - TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES		
Trade Debtors	41,725	13,241
	41,725	13,241
NOTE 5 - INVESTMENTS		
Term Deposit	30,730	30,424
	30,730	30,424
NOTE 6 - PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Building Improvements at cost	17,215	17,215
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(8,315)	(7,518)
	8,900	9,697
Plant and Equipment at cost	105,817	105,817
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(99,105)	(94,674)
	6,712	11,143
Motor Vehicles at cost	68,934	68,934
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(61,813)	(59,746)
	7,121	9,188
TOTAL PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	22,733	30,028
NOTE 7 - TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES		
Sundry Creditors and Accruals	68,813	73,194
	68,813	73,194
NOTE 8 - CONTRACT LIABILITIES		
Grants Received in Advance	97,306	86,449
Unexpended Donations	83,725	79,733
	181,031	166,182
NOTE 9 - PROVISIONS		
Current		
Annual Leave	156,029	133,151
Long Service Leave	70,431	65,021
	226,460	198,172

COMPANION HOUSE ASSISTING
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NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 10 - RETAINED SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)

Balance at the beginning of the year	281,666	224,335
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	1,334	57,331
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Balance at the end of the year	283,000	281,666

Operating surplus / (deficit) from ordinary activities after income tax	1,334	57,331
Non cash items		
Depreciation	7,295	7,961
Reinvested interest on investments	(306)	(579)
Change in operating assets and liabilities		
(Increase) / decrease in trade and other receivables	(28,484)	7,550
Increase / (decrease) in trade and other payables	(4,381)	14,116
Increase / (decrease) in contract liabilities	14,849	68,587
Increase / (decrease) in employee provisions	28,288	20,489
Cash flows provided by / (used in) operating activities	18,595	175,455

NOTE 11 - COVID-19 PANDEMIC

There was no material impact of COVID -19 on Companion House regarding asset impairment or going concern based on impact on ongoing grants during the year.

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:

Large anonymous donors - we appreciate your generosity so much, know who you are and respect your privacy.

Jenny Rae and Jennifer Tode for provision of pro bono migration services at Companion House –an amazing and long term commitment.

Australian Islamic Medical Association and all the medical specialists in the network for their commitment to provide accessible specialist services to people from a refugee background.

The Australian National University Medical Students Society for generous provision of donations from their annual ANU Med Revue –an enormous and very useful contribution over many years –with sincere thanks.

Vanessa Crimmons and the O'Connor Uniting Church for weekly deliveries of 30-60 dozen free range eggs and the farmer Bernie Cusack who gives them a discount and delivers the eggs every week.

The leaders and peer mentors from all the communities we work with particularly Manoranjitham Ramachandran, Mustafa Ehsan and Zelai Chinzah, Inas Al-Khazraji, Rahaf Ashkar, Canary Istephan, Ana Leticia Garcia Velasco, Iris Elgueta, Shin Thu Gay, Yin Aye Wah , Kumutha Nagarajan.

Mohammad Ali and Helping ACT for generous provision of food relief and keeping our emergency food pantry stocked.

Anne Marie Nichol for donation of rental property at cost for over ten years

The stars of our film On the frontlines: Vinefreeda Kaneshan, Hussain Jafari, Martin Ngor, Peter Kuot, Ray and Eh Paw.

Psychiatrist network proving external psychiatric reports for asylum seekers: Dr John Saboisky, Dr Meredith Whiting and Dr Ann Harrison.

Lyn Rainforest and Roberta McRae - for helping two Companion House clients to prepare for the Australian citizenship test

Dr Tuan Pham for making ENT services accessible.

Braddon Dental Surgery for their donation.

University of Canberra and University for waiving international fees for tertiary students who have Safe Haven Enterprise Visas(SHEVS) and working in partnership with Companion House to ensure students get their tertiary education.

Alex Ho, social worker at Calvary Hospital and previously at Argyle Housing for his outstanding partnership work.

St Pauls Anglican Church Manuka for donations and support specially Claudia Hyles.

The volunteers supporting the migration agents by assisting people with filling of forms – Helen Cory and Jenny Rae.

Dr Andrew Miller and Dr Kate Drummond for providing accessible specialist services to vulnerable people.

Phoenix Knitters and South Woden Craft Group.

Helen Bessey and Carol Chapman and the U3A art class for the pantry donations each week

Fred Fawke for shifting furniture and donated goods and always providing practical support and lots of good cheer.

Margaret Mckinnon and Evelyn Gore for coordinating warm knitted items needed for a Canberra winter.

Pat Toumoua and Able Rubbish Removals, Rhys Freeman and Digby Habel for always helping us out so generously with their practical skills.

COMPANION HOUSE
ASSISTING SURVIVORS
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