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Annual Report 2019

SUTHERLAND SHIRE REFUGEE CONNECTION INCORPORATED

A.B.N. 35 859 201 921

Balance Sheet

As at June 2019

	2019
	\$
Assets	
Current Assets	
Cash on Hand	<u>\$12.00</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>\$12.00</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$12.00</u>
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Net Assets	<u><u>\$12.00</u></u>
Equity	
Accumulated Surplus(Deficit)	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Current Year Surplus/Deficit	<u>\$12.00</u>
Historical Balancing	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Total Equity	<u><u>\$12.00</u></u>

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OUR VISION

We aim to welcome people from a refugee and refugee-like background and assist them to make a new beginning in the Sutherland Shire, fostering a culturally diverse and inclusive community.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE REFUGEE CONNECTION INCORPORATED

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Income and Expenditure Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2019

	2019
	\$
Income	
Membership Fees	\$ 12.00
In-Kind Donation	<u>\$170.00</u>
Total Income	<u>\$182.00</u>
Expenditure	
Administration Costs	<u>\$170.00</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>\$170.00</u>
Profit(Loss) from ordinary activities	<u><u>\$ 12.00</u></u>

WHO ARE WE?

Sutherland Shire Refugee Connection, formed in 2018, is a volunteer organisation of like-minded individuals with the sense of compassion and concern for our fellow human beings, who want to help and support people from refugee and refugee like backgrounds to settle in the Sutherland shire.

We aim to assist with the practical challenges that refugees face when settling in to a new area, and also offer friendship and social support as they forge their new beginning.

OUR TEAM:

President: Amy Lesleighter
Vice President: Rob Lindsay
Secretary: Amy Lesleighter
Treasurer: Rishi Dhillon
Ordinary Members: Mary Hedges
Jenny Grey
Eric Hatfield
Marolyn Ninness
Ed Holt
Jan Holt
Gillian Minto

OUR SUPPORTERS:

Wendy Wilson, Brett Middleton, Carolyn Hatfield, Chris Leong, Serapino Caleo, Tim McLaughlin, Jenny Tang, and Virginia Hughes.

President's Report 2019

We are individuals that are keen to establish a community beyond our group with the compassion and capacity necessary to welcome refugees in the Shire.

The Sutherland Shire Council reaffirmed its commitment on 23 July 2018 (in a letter to a M4R member of this group) to being a Refugee Welcome Zone and annually supporting Refugee Week:

"This is a commitment in spirit to welcoming refugees into our community, upholding the human rights of refugees, demonstrating compassion for refugees and enhancing cultural and religious diversity in our community."

The Sutherland Shire Refugee Welcome group first met at GyMEA Community Aid and Information Service (GCAIS) on 14 June 2018 to hear Michael Aitkin (founder of NBRI) present the Northern Beaches Refugee Initiative to us. At that time, he shared learnings and successes with those present and it was agreed that we should hold follow-up meetings.

The NBRI initiative had taken place in conjunction with Settlement Services International (SSI) and at this we were introduced to Charles Rich, the Housing Coordinator with SSI. He left SSI on 5 October 2018. Haitham Subhi started attending our meetings from 13th September, before handing over to Haylee Easthop in early 2019.

Follow-up meetings took place on 2 August (St Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church), 13th September (President Avenue Community Church, PACC), 5th September (SSI office, Ashfield), 18th October (Connect Church, Engadine), 29 November (GyMEA Anglican).

Our committee started forming at the 18 October 2018 meeting, initially with only a secretary, Amy Lesleighter and Francois Hanna (Multicultural Community Liaison Officer for NSW Police), who was refugee liaison until he left the police force early January. However, Sargun Rishi Singh Dhillon joined the team as treasurer at the 29 November meeting.

The name of the group was agreed as Sutherland Shire Refugee Connection (SSRC) at that November meeting with meeting times standardised to 12.30pm – 2.30pm on the first Thursday of each month, meeting at PACC in Kirrawee.

In-kind donations received in 2019 & 2020 Financial Year to date

\$170 from Rishi for SSRC Incorporation registration in April 2019

\$36.94 from Eric for website set up costs in August 2019

Ongoing Incorporation Obligations

According to the Department of Fair Trading we are a Tier 2 Association where income is less than \$250,000 in this financial year, and a small charity according to the ACNC. As a result, our financial accounts were not required to be audited unless our constitution required us to do, which it did not.

Our reporting obligations have changed from reporting to the Department of Fair Trading as an incorporated entity to only the ACNC by 31 December as we are now a charity.

Looking to the future

In 2020, we will work towards becoming a Public Benevolent Institution (PBI) and will apply for Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status with the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) so our future donations can be tax deductible for donors.

We will continue to apply for community grants that suit the vision and goals of our organisation and aim to raise future funds through other fundraising events as well.

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Treasurer's Report

Achievements to Date

Sutherland Shire Refugee Connection (SSRC) was successfully incorporated 9th May 2019 with the Department of Fair Trading

Our bank account was opened with Commonwealth Bank of Australia on 18th June 2019

We received confirmation on 21st October 2019 that SSRC has been registered as a charity with the Australian Charities & Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC) from Incorporation date 9th May 2019

Paypal has now been set up, and donors can now pay through our website, Facebook and our brochures.

Grant Application Update

2 Grants were applied in the 2020 financial year, with:

July 2019 - Australia Post Community Grants Program up to \$10,000 successfully received \$2000 for brokerage costs, confirmed on 4th November by Australia Post

July 2019 - Commonwealth Bank Not-for-profit Treasurer Awards \$5,000 – unfortunately it appears we were unsuccessful this time around Treasurer nomination application to win \$500, but we had not heard any news so we have assumed we were unsuccessful.

September 2019 - Sutherland Shire Council's Doing it Differently Grant Program up to \$10,000 – unfortunately we were unsuccessful this time around.

The first meeting of 2019 was on 7 February and a special meeting was called for 20 February where it was decided that we should become an Incorporated body. At the 4 April meeting Rob Lindsay became Vice-President & Amy Lesleighter became President. Mary Hedges, Jenny Grey, Eric Hatfield, Marolyn Ninness, Ed Holt, Jan Holt and Gillian Minto all became ordinary members. The following people wished to be non-committee SSRC members: Wendy Wilson, Brett Middleton, Carolyn Hatfield, Chris Leong, Serapino Caleo and Tim McLaughlin joined this group in May.

We received interest from adverts in The Leader, March 2019, leading to a couple of new members joining the team.

Eric Hatfield started drafting our Website in March and Amy Lesleighter created a Facebook page in May. Policy and operational documents have been started.

A half day STARTTS Training was held at PACC on Mon 6 May 2019 with 15 attendees. It was a very popular event and the general consensus was to hold it again at an appropriate time for those who couldn't attend and for new members of the group and, particularly, after relationships had started to form with refugees coming to the Shire.

On 9 May we were registered as an Incorporated Association and Amy and Rishi opened the SSRC bank account with CBA on 11 June.

The SSRC group did not have the capacity to hold an event during refugee week but supported the well-attended movie screening by GCAIS & the SSC on 19 June. On 12 June The Leader ran an article titled 'Council to co-host film on refugees and welcome bus tour of those with an interest in making the shire home'. The online link read 'Refugee Welcome Zone not just words'.

On 28 June we organised a bus trip giving 20 refugees a tour of the Shire. This was a very enjoyable and educational day for all with visits to Loftus Tafe, a welcome at Sutherland library by Deputy Mayor Steve Simpson and lunch at Gunnamatta Bay Park. The Leader wrote an article on 17 July covering the day: 'Refugees consider possible new home'. Online the 3 July article was headed 'Refugees from conflicts in Syria and Iraq see what Sutherland Shire has to offer', the link was 'Refugees welcomed to the shire'.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE REFUGEE CONNECTION

INCORPORATED

A.B.N: 35 859 201 921

INC: 1900629

Date of Incorporation: 9 May 2019

Financial Reports
for Financial Year Ending
30 June 2019

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