



Annual Report 2020



CONTENTS

Vision Page 2

Who are we Page 3

Our Team Page 3

President's Report Page 4

Financial Report Page 6

Treasurer's Report Page 10

Contact us Page 11

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.

The Sutherland Shire Refugee Connection acknowledges the Gweagal people of the Dharawal nation, the traditional custodians of the land where we meet and work.



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 into a new area, and offer friendship and social support as they forge their new beginning.

OUR COMMITTEE:

President: Amy Lesleighter

Vice President: Rob Lindsay

Secretary: Gillian Minto

Treasurer: Rishi Dhillon

Ordinary Members: Jenny Grey

Eric Hatfield

Ed Holt

Jan Holt

OUR MEMBERS:

Priya Anand, Jayne Gan, Eleanor Gough, Mary Hedges, Chris Leong, Denise McEwan, Tim McLaughlin, Marolyn Ninness, Elise Quigley, Jenny Tang, and Wendy Wilson.



3



PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2020

The Sutherland Shire Refugee Connection (SSRC) group has continued to meet every month from July 2019 until June 2020 except for January, for summer holidays and March, because of the COVID-19 pandemic. From April, meetings have been by videoconference.

On 7th November we held our first Annual General meeting, with 15 people in attendance. Office bearers elected were:

President - Amy Lesleighter

Vice President - Rob Lindsay

Secretary - Gillian Minto

Treasurer - Rishi Dhillon

Committee members – Eric Hatfield, Jan Holt, Ed Holt, Jenny Grey

We hosted our first stall, as a charity, at the Engadine Spring Fair on 9 November where we distributed approximately 100 leaflets as well as business cards, badges and (biodegradable) balloons. Six people were eager to join our group and others were keen to highlight local support services for us to connect with. Michael Aitken from the Northern beaches Refugee Initiative (NBRI) came down to support our stall and encourage our new group. This was very much appreciated.

2020 has been an interesting year; not quite 'The Year of Welcome' we were all hoping it to be. Our committee met in February to establish four working groups (WGs); Public Profile WG, Participant Support, Fundraising WG and Volunteers WG. The Public Profile WG started sending out a quarterly newsletter style email via MailChimp.

We were trying to assist a family to settle into Sutherland Shire early 2020 but with the

onset of COVID19 the situation was far from ideal to be able to complete this process. Even though we were offered a rental property the situation was too isolating for the potential participant.

We planned to host a stall at the Harmony Day Festival on 21 March at Shelley Beach, but this event was sadly cancelled due to the COVID pandemic. We arranged to meet again in April by Google Meet and then from May onwards we have met by Zoom with additional Zoom meetings for the working groups.

The SSRC group was again able to support a well-attended movie screening by Gynea Community Aid information Services (GCAIS), the Sutherland Shire Council (SSC) and the Sutherland Shire Multicultural Network, during Refugee Week. The movie 'For Sama' was shown at two screening times by Zoom on 17 June. Amy introduced the SSRC group to the afternoon audience and Eric introduced the SSRC group to the evening audience. Mayor Carmelo Pesce gave an opening address at each and local guest speakers, Safwan Aldod and Najwa Madanii, spoke about their refugee backgrounds.

Haylee Eastop was our contact at Settlement Services International (SSI) from early 2019 however she announced at our June meeting that she will be going on maternity leave from August with Haitham Subhi helping her hand over to a new person.

4



We have not arranged any further Service for the Treatment And Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors (STARTTS) training in the last year. Refugees have not been arriving, with the Federal Government having closed Australia's borders due to COVID19, but we have continued to work towards the time when we will be able to welcome new arrivals. We continue to raise funds, fulfill requirements for DGR status and develop procedures to guide volunteers in how to support refugees appropriately. Our hope is that SSI will be able to lease accommodation within Sutherland Shire when our borders reopen, for 'On Arrival' accommodation.

Eric Hatfield has continued to update our website and Amy Lesleighter updates our Facebook page. We look forward to the time when we can welcome and support our first refugees as they settle in the Sutherland Shire.

Amy Lesleighter

President



5



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 2020

6



**SUTHERLAND SHIRE REFUGEE
CONNECTION INCORPORATED**

A.B.N: 35 859 201 921

Contents

Income & Expenditure Statement 8

Balance Sheet 9



SUTHERLAND SHIRE REFUGEE CONNECTION INCORPORATED

A.B.N. 35 859 201 921

Income and Expenditure Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2020

2020 2019

\$ \$

Income

Grants Income \$2,000.00 \$0.00 Membership Fees \$26.00 \$12.00

General Donations \$1,486.00 \$0.00 In-Kind Donation \$207.48 \$170.00

Total Income \$3,719.48 \$182.00

Expenditure

Administration Costs \$0.00 \$170.00 Bank Fees \$28.17 \$0.00 Printing

Costs \$207.48 \$0.00 Total Expenditure \$235.65 \$170.00

Profit (Loss) from ordinary activities

\$3,483.83 \$12.00

In Kind

500 Brochures Rishi Dhillon \$207.48

Stamp GCAIS \$67.40

Letterhead Ed & Jan Holt \$100.00

8



SUTHERLAND SHIRE REFUGEE CONNECTION INCORPORATED

A.B.N. 35 859 921

Balance Sheet

For the year ended 30th June 2020

2020 2019

\$ \$

Assets

Current Assets

Cash in Bank \$3,495.83 \$0.00

Cash on Hand \$0.00 \$12.00

Total Current Assets \$3,495.83 \$12.00

Total Assets \$3,495.83 \$12.00

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Total Current Liabilities \$0.00 \$0.00

Total Liabilities \$0.00 \$0.00

Net Assets \$3,495.83 \$12.00

Equity

Retained Earnings \$12.00 \$0.00

Current Year Earnings \$3,483.83 \$12.00

Total Equity \$3,495.83 \$12.00



SUTHERLAND SHIRE REFUGEE CONNECTION INCORPORATED

A.B.N: 35 859 201 921

TREASURER'S REPORT

Achievements to Date

On 21st October 2019, SSRC had been registered as a charity with the Australian Charities & Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC) from Incorporation date 9th May 2019.

We received immense support from the community to cover public liability insurance costs of \$1,416.09. However, we have not applied for this yet due to COVID and international border restrictions, there have been no new refugee families migrating to Australia at this stage. We are

incredibly grateful to all of our supporters for their financial support.

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.

Grant Application Update

In November 2019 SSRC were successful in receiving a 2019 Australia Post Community Grant to be used for brokerage costs in providing employment assistance to the families we will support.

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.

Looking to the future

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, and hope for the easing of international borders over the coming year, so we can assist families migrating to Australia, and in particular the Sutherland Shire Community.

Rishi Dhillon

Treasurer



CONTACT US

Email: ssrefugeeconnection@gmail.com

Web: www.ssrc.org.au

Facebook: [Sutherland Shire Refugee Connection](#)

