

# **Annual Report**

## **2021 - 2022**



**Circle of Friends Australia Incorporated**

*Supporting Asylum Seekers and Refugees  
in the community and in detention*

## Who we are



Circles of Friends Australia Inc (COFA) has been working to support Asylum Seekers and Refugees since 2002, with the organisation becoming incorporated in 2013.

We consist of a network of 24 Circles (groups) governed by a management committee. All Circles share a common commitment to welcome and assist refugees and asylum seekers with the difficult process of establishing themselves in a new country, or with the challenges of detention and asylum application process.

Member Circles choose their own activities, recruit their own members, decide their own spheres of work and raise their own funds. They relate to COFA committee by agreeing to abide by the COFA constitution and policies and using COFA's financial services, including its tax deductible charity status, bank account and group insurance cover for events. Each Circle has one or more Convenors who gather friends and contacts and members of the public to do the work they set themselves. This allows each Circle independence in how it operates and to start and finish when it is right for them and it gives the organisation as a whole the agility to respond quickly when there is a new situation and to meet the diverse range of needs Asylum Seekers and Refugees.

All members of COFA act in a voluntary capacity. We have no paid staff, and so ensure, other than unavoidable administrative fees (bank fees, insurance etc), that donations go directly to helping Asylum Seekers and Refugees.

# Chairperson's Report

This year has seen a continued and increased need to cover the cost of living for people, especially asylum seekers with no benefits and who are unable to work because of illness and/or disability. The Coalition let more people out of closed detention with little or no support to live within the community. Circle of Friends has worked with other agencies to support the people who moved to Adelaide from detention facilities.

There has been a very heavy toll on people on temporary visas who have faced 9 or 10 years of insecurity with no clear pathway to become permanent residents or, for some, a country to settle in. The new Labour Government has signalled that there will be opportunities for permanent settlement for some of these refugees.

As we will hear, we have several new Circles. Some are newly formed groups and others are existing groups that have decided to join the COFA network. The long-standing Circles continue to contribute in many ways to ensure people can survive and build lives in this city with a network of people around them.

Circles of Friends is a marvellous organisational model of working together in small groups supporting each other, connected to the whole under an umbrella, and in coordination with other organisations across the city. It allows people's creativity and generosity to flourish as well as maintaining the necessary integrity.

I wish you all well in the continuing work to welcome refugees and asylum seekers and value them for who they are and all they have to offer us.

***Monica O'Wheel, Chair***

# Treasurer's Report

This has been another remarkable year for COFA. We have received \$454,380 in donations and grants and spent \$448,211 in payments for refugees and asylum seekers. These figures are down a little from the previous year and a major reason was the lack of government grants to provide food for families and individuals who had lost their jobs and any income.

We have sent more than 2,000 receipts to 504 donors in the last year. Having come from a \$30,000 a year organisation in 2013, to the size we are today is a remarkable story of generous donors having faith in a totally volunteer organisation with minimal administrative overheads undertaking vital tasks to meet the desperate needs of people within our community.

This year there has been a notable increase in the number of donors giving on a regular basis either through regular EFT transfers into our bank account or regular donations on the GiveNow platform. It means that every month we have an assured income coming into the Circles. There has also been an increase in size of many donations. The Circles could never hope to attempt what they do unless they have the wonderful support of our donors. I am so grateful to all our donors.

I am also so grateful to the volunteers in the Circles who undertake the constant tasks of fund raising and meeting with refugees, learning of their difficulties and offering assistance, friendship and hope. Circle of Friends is a wonderful organisation to be involved in and we trust that everyone will feel the satisfaction, and perhaps a little pride in what we together can do, to make Australia a welcoming, friendly community for refugees and asylum seekers to find a new life.

I also want to thank Lesley Walker for coming to my home and learning the ropes of our accounting to be able to step in for me in the future when needed.

**Bruce Whyatt, *Treasurer***

# Red Cross Humanitarian Award 2021

At the Red Cross SA AGM in August 2021, Circle of Friends was presented with the Australian Red Cross Humanitarian Partner Award with the following citation:

“Circle of Friends Australia consists of local community groups which support refugees and asylum seekers living in the community, or visit those in detention. Members of each Circle are volunteers who come from a wide range of backgrounds but share a common commitment to welcoming and assisting new arrivals with the difficult process of establishing themselves in a new country, with the challenges of detention. Eighteen of the Circles are located in the greater Adelaide metropolitan area.

Circles of Friends in South Australia has provided exceptional support to people seeking asylum in the community. The Circles work closely with the Migration Support Program Emergency Relief staff to assist people seeking asylum with material needs such as rent payments, medical and pharmaceutical expenses, educational support, and the cost of health and fitness activities, amongst many more.

In response to COVID-19, the COVID Support Circle was established and led by Catherine Russell. With the support of the Department of Social Services Funds were facilitated by Red Cross in SA, along with other funds raised by the Circle, the COVID Support Circle delivered food parcels to 150 households for 11 months, involving 60 volunteers. This food service was exceptional in supporting our joint clients who had been impacted by the loss of work due to the pandemic.

In a similar fashion, the release of 11 families and 9 single people (a total of 60 individuals) from Community Detention in late 2020, the Circles of Friends raised funds to support the housing costs of the majority of these people, while Australian Red Cross was able to provide financial assistance for six months or until people gained employment.

Without the ongoing collaboration with Circle of Friends, Emergency Relief within Migrant Support Programs would not have been able to assist those in greatest need.

Circle of Friends Australia are worthy recipients of this Humanitarian Partner Award.

Signed by Ross Piney - Red Cross President  
August 2021”

**Circle of Friends Australia is grateful to Red Cross for their recognition of our work. None of us can do everything that is needed, so partnerships and collaboration like this are crucially important.**



# Our Circles' Work

## Supporting Families



### **Circle 13: Family of Four**

This Circle was created in January 2022 after a generous anonymous donation allowing financial support to be provided to a family of four. Assistance to the family began in February 2022. Prior to this, the family managed on a small Federal Government allowance combined with financial assistance from Lesley's Circle (Circle 113) and Blackwood-Hills (Circle 7). When the Federal Government allowance ceased in December 2021 the family was left without any income.

The family is visited weekly to provide comfort and practical assistance. They were granted refugee status under Nauruan law (a clone of Australian immigration law). Issues facing the family include severe health problems for the parents, unemployment with no access to Centrelink (therefore no concession card) ... and survival. There is much joy in working with this family who provide delicious meals and take-away boxes ("for Uncle") at every visit, and their children who bring delight with their energy and joyfulness.

### **Circle 75: Kensington**

The Kensington Circle supports asylum seekers and refugees as we meet them or are asked. The Circle continues to support a widow and her five children in Pakistan, while her sister here pays for their immigration interview and health check costs.

The Circle has also started to send money monthly to a family's niece who has been able to get to relative safety in Addis Ababa with the assistance of this Circle.

Additionally due to the terrible situation in Afghanistan in the northern winter months, the Circle has given money to two families here to send to their relatives in Afghanistan. In the harsh winter with no work for Hazara people under the Taliban rule, risk of starvation is high.

### **Circle 117: The Manresa Circle**

The Manresa Circle's prime role is to assist a family of seven from the Congo by paying their rent and other small needs. Members support them emotionally and with transport needs. Slowly but surely, the family is assimilating into the Australian way of life. Through the Circle's efforts the father is now in employment (albeit on a casual basis) which assists with utility needs. The Circle liaises with St Vincent de Paul regarding food and utility assistance.



# Providing Welcoming Community



## **Circle 7: Blackwood - Hills**

The Blackwood-Hills Circle consists of around 30 members who provide practical support to refugees living in the community through direct contact, visits, and targeted provision of financial support including payment of rent for one family. The Circle also advocates on behalf of refugees, and runs fundraising events to fund its targeted financial support.

The Blackwood-Hills Circle is currently supporting seven families or individuals, with 10 families supported over the course of the year. In the past the Circle provided small monthly allowances to students which has enabled them to complete university studies. Currently the Circle is only supporting one student, but is keen to support others in this way, given the success of the students they previously supported.

## **Circle 11: Willunga**

Consisting of 10 to 15 people who meet regularly to plan and coordinate activities and the support of refugees. The Willunga Circle continues to support over 20 people and their families through friendship, practical support and financial assistance with majority of expenditure going towards rent, utility bills, other living costs and car expenses.

## **Circle 111: Effective Living Centre**

Approximately 19 members of the Effective Living Centre Circle run a range of activities for refugees with the aim of creating a welcoming and supportive community for these people.

This year the Circle ran two Swimming Days including a shared lunch at the North Adelaide Swimming Centre. These days are always a highlight for the children. Mercy Links girls

also assist in the water with the children, while we spend some time talking to the parents. The shared lunches on these occasions are multicultural and wonderful.

For Mother's Day the Circle ran its annual event at St Thomas' School in Goodwood. This provides a lovely inside venue and grassed outside area for the children where soccer and many other activities are enjoyed. Circle members hold a Conversation Circle for the Mums while the children are playing. Gifts for all the mothers have been donated and everyone enjoys these occasions, plus the sharing in a large Mother's Day special cake. A similar event is run as an End of Year Picnic.

### **Circle 113: Lesley's Circle**

This Circle functions to visit and provide comfort and practical assistance to people who are asylum seekers or refugees by helping them to manage the demands of maintaining an ordinary life in Australia while coping variously with grief and anxiety, as well as supporting them through legal and health issues so that they remain hopeful of building "a good life".

The Circle provides active and regular visits and phone calls to 13 people in the northern suburbs of Adelaide and infrequent contact, as requested, to eight people in South Australia, two people in Queensland, two people in Victoria and one person in Brisbane Immigration detention whose family lives in Papua New Guinea.

It was particularly sad time when this year a friend "voluntarily" returned to a South-East Asian country after many years in detention in Adelaide (AITA), NSW (Villawood IDC) and WA (Northam IDC). Their partner and child remain in Adelaide without a visa and no income, no Centrelink support and no Medicare. This Circle and Blackwood-Hills (Circle 7) have maintained a monthly payment of \$400 to this family since 2018.

In addition to practical support, financial support was provided for a range of living costs including car maintenance, medical costs, translation fees, legal fees, National Police check, rent, utility accounts, mobile phone credit, internet, groceries, household goods and "top up" money to supplement people who have no income, no Centrelink benefits and are often unemployed due to illness. Some might receive emergency payments from Red Cross of \$400/fortnight for families or \$200/fortnight for single people. Very few received a Resolution Support Services allowance (SRSS) benefit via Immigration/DHA but are not allowed to work. For some people the SRSS benefit was not renewed late in 2021.

### **Circle 114: Circle of Hope**

Circle of Hope has eight active members drawn out of and centred around the Spire Community. This Circle currently works with five refugees directly supporting them in many ways including financial payment of rent and bills, driving lessons and other practical support. Additionally during the last twelve months the Circle has also been heavily involved helping source and deliver household goods to refugees setting up homes.

## **The ongoing hurdles for refugees on temporary visas**

Many of the Circles are involved in providing financial and practical support to refugees and asylum seekers who are receiving minimal, if any, Government support. Some asylum seekers and refugees who are ineligible for Centrelink payments have instead been receiving Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS) allowance from the Department of Human Affairs (DHA) which they need to apply periodically for renewal.

Lesley's Circle (113) accounts how they spent three months of intensive work along with Life Without Barriers (Sydney) to meet the demands of an application for renewal of the SRSS allowance for one family. This included liaising with the family's GP, a psychiatrist and Survivors of Torture and Trauma Assistance and Rehabilitation (STTARS) to provide letters about the health of the parents, organising bank statements, providing the family's rental agreement, writing a statement about the financial assistance given by Circle of Friends Australia, and responding to the question of "How long Circle of Friends Australia might be able to support the Family?".

Unknown to all involved in the application process, DHA had changed the eligibility requirements making the family ineligible to receive SRSS payments. The Family's circumstances had not changed from their previous successful application to receive SRSS allowance.

This was a huge blow to their morale because they had managed to pay their rent from that allowance and now must rely on Circle of Friends. Rent for their house in a northern suburb is \$550/ fortnight, and the landlord has advised a 16% increase from November 2022. Fortunately Red Cross provided an emergency payment of \$400/fortnight from January – June 2022 but has flagged early doubts about its continuation in the 2022 – 2023 financial year, subject to funding. So this family continues to live in limbo and in a state of great anxiety, awaiting a resolution of their visa status and not knowing how they will meet their living costs in the coming months. The children in this family were born in Australia and the mother has a lifelong chronic illness.

# Emergency Support

## Circle 110: Rapid Response

The aim of this Circle is to respond to requests for assistance within 24 hours and to take action within 48 hours. The Rapid Response Circle receives most of the referrals to COFA and either responds directly or forwards the request to Circles with a special focus or other potential sources of help. The broad purpose of the Rapid Response Circle is to fill urgent gaps in what government and non-government services are mandated to provide for refugees and asylum seekers.

During the year the Circle's expenditure was about \$60,000 with main expenses being rent and living expenses.

The Circle continued collaborative support for five men and four families in conjunction with Willunga, Blackwood-Hills, Effective Living Centre, Circle of Hope, St Ignatius, Pilgrim and SOS for Asylum Seekers Circles, and the St Vincent de Paul Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Service.

Additionally ongoing rent of \$66 fortnightly was paid for one man without a Visa, short term rent for two others when difficulties arose, and urgent rent paid in advance for a refugee with disabilities waiting in Anglicare's Office for a key and with no money left.

Recurring living expenses helped five individuals and five families including medications for five people, food, phones and transport. Other expenditure included:

- car registration and new battery, help with utility bills and new shoes providing back support for a TAFE student
- Warm bedding and clothes (donated, new, and shopping vouchers)
- Medical and X-ray gaps and urgent Dental care
- An emergency plumbing bill of \$500 which the Agent insisted the tenant should pay
- Coles' Halal food delivery to an entire household with Covid and limited funds
- School clothes and shoes
- Work clothes, shoes and tools
- Unpaid fines/ ambulance bills where legal action was threatened.

Requests for help with overdue utilities' and phone payments occurred regularly, paid when other Circles couldn't respond.

## Circle 127: Afghan Emergency

The Afghan Emergency Circle's purpose is to support newly arriving Afghan families and individuals and to support Afghans in Australia who are desperate to bring their family members to safety.

This Circle started in August 2021 when the Taliban took over Kabul and the Afghanistan Government. Immediately people started joining and/or donating money. The Circle has 15 members with six or seven members attending meetings.

This Circle supports seven Afghan families. This has ranged from immediate physical needs for bedding, food, warm clothing and household goods to other needs like driving lessons, preparing resumes and job searching, friendly visits, transport to medical appointments, and other daily needs.

Circle members and others have also responded to the call to propose Afghans attempting to get a Humanitarian Visa so they can travel to safety in Australia. Some applicants are judges, some are family members of refugees here on temporary visas, some are people who worked for NGOs. All are now in danger from the Taliban.



### **Attempting to bring Afghanis to safety in Australia**

The Afghan Emergency Circle (Circle 127) and the Pilgrim Circle (Circle 27) are amongst the many people who responded to the call to propose Afghans attempting to get a Humanitarian Visa so they can travel to safety in Australia. Applicants that Circle of Friends have supported include judges, family members of refugees here on temporary visas and people who worked for NGOs. All are now in danger from the Taliban.

Through one of their members who is a Migration Agent, the Pilgrim Circle has been supporting 16 Afghani judges who are in extreme danger and struggling financially even for basic living costs. The judges and their families have been living in Afghanistan or in Pakistan. Support has included costs of the immigration application process for things like DNA tests, translation and interpreter fees, and for living costs. Of this group, three judges plus the families of two these judges, all had medicals and interviews with the Australian embassy in February 2022. The Circle started to prepare in anticipation of visa grants and the arrivals of these families but were left very disappointed at the lack of progress by the Australian Government. In the end the two Afghan judges and their families were offered settlement in Germany and flown to Germany three weeks after the offer! The single Afghan man is still awaiting an outcome.

## Keeping people in their homes

### Circle 121: SOS for asylum seekers

SOS for asylum seekers Circle supports people seeking asylum living in Australia who are struggling to make ends meet. It assists by helping with rent payments, utility payments and other living expenses, in addition to advocating on behalf of individuals where necessary.

The Circle meets regularly with the Vinnies Refugee and Asylum Seeker Service (VRASS) and the Red Cross to develop coordinated plans for the people we assist, including providing access to job readiness programs, to education and training (and the associated costs), assistance with finding employment, help with finding affordable housing, and referrals to other appropriate agencies.

This financial year this Circle has been able to assist 31 individuals and families with an expenditure of just over \$100,000 indicating the level of need within the asylum seeker and refugee sector. Some of the people the Circle has been helping have succeeded in finding work, but some are still struggling to find any or sufficient employment to support themselves independently.



## **Preventing people from falling through the cracks**

SOS for Asylum Seekers Circle (121) assists people seeking asylum who either arrived by boat in Australia prior to 2014, and who had to apply for refugee status under the so-called 'fast-track' system introduced by the previous Federal government, or those who tried to arrive in Australia by boat after 2013 but were sent to either Manus or Nauru.

In terms of visa status, these people can be divided into the following categories:

1. Those who were assessed under the 'fast-track' system as meeting the criteria for being refugees. They are only eligible for temporary protection visas (SHEVs which last 5 years or TPVs which last 3 years). They have been denied permanent protection visas solely due to their mode of arrival (by boat).
2. Those assessed under the 'fast-track' system as not meeting the criteria for refugees. These people were given temporary bridging visas of between 3 and 6 month's duration. It should be noted that the 'fast-track' system of processing has been highly criticized as lacking in procedural fairness.
3. Those still awaiting determination of their claims under the so-called 'fast-track' system. Those who spent years on Nauru or Manus before being sent to Australia. These people have all been denied refugee status by the former Australian government, despite most meeting the criteria. They have been given temporary bridging visas of between 3 and 6 month's duration.

Almost no-one in the latter three categories is eligible any longer for any form of social security.

Many of the people we help have significant mental and physical health problems, due to a multitude of factors: the trauma experienced in their country of origin, their journey to Indonesia and then by boat to Australia, for some, their detention on Manus or Nauru and for all of them, their ongoing experience of living in limbo for nearly 10 years, without the ability to plan for the future. Compounding these factors are their problems with language, lack of recognition of skills, lack of local work experience and contacts and the costs of re-training.

# Education Support

## Circle 106: St Ignatius Refugee Education Support Circle

The St Ignatius Refugee Education Support Circle, consisting of 12 members, has been active for 20 years with the aim of helping refugees and asylum seekers towards self-sufficiency by assisting with educational courses of their choosing to facilitate their access to the workforce. Choices range from short work-ready programs through to higher degrees. The Circle responds to the stated needs of individual applicants who are referred by reliable refugee agencies and support services.

The Circle has helped 25 applicants during the past financial year, many of whom needed computers. The Circle has spent considerable time sourcing most the appropriate resources and best deals for computers and other educational needs that students request.

### Helping people gain employment

The St Ignatius Refugee Education Support Circle tailors their assistance to suit the needs of asylum seekers and refugees seeking to gain qualifications necessary to gain employment.

Some of the people the Circle has helped this year include a talented overseas qualified barber whose Visa prohibited study. The barber wanted to extend his English to “speak nicely to customers” and later to gain an Australian qualification to facilitate opening his own business. A member arranged conversational meetings with a mentor, and another explored alternative pathways to a qualification. This applicant is now permitted to study and is enrolled in TAFE English.

An ongoing story is that of an overseas qualified dentist who wants recognition of her qualifications. The Circle has been able to explore how to achieve this goal in conjunction with a STTARS counsellor. This is an ongoing case, with it having taken two years to get the paper work required to start the process. There is now a \$610 fee required, that that the applicant is unable to pay. The Circle has assisted with advice from amongst our members about funding the next stages of this process.

The work of this Circle also requires looking wholistically at the situation of each person they work with. In talking with some of the female students the Circle works a number of cultural, economical and mental issues were highlighted as problems hindering their study. With help from Centacare, the Circle has been able to suggest relevant agencies that may provide the specialised assistance needed for these students.

## Re-uniting Families



### Circle 115: Family Reunions

The Family Reunions Circle works to assist refugees and asylum seekers with Family Reunion and Protection Visas. It involves following up requests, negotiating loans, raising money, deciding how much we can spend when there are many needs, and lastly arranging payment.

In 2021 – 2022 the majority of people the Circle supported were people who have come from Afghanistan, but also assisted people from West Africa, Sudan, Eritrea and Sri Lanka. Assistance was given to assist with:

- **Application for Protection visas** including:
  - A woman escaping domestic violence
  - Afghan man here on BVE in need of a SHEV visa after Taliban take over which increases his fear of persecution if he returns to Afghanistan
  - A ministerial application for protection
  - A Tamil man to make an appeal to the Immigration Assessment Authority
- **Applications for Humanitarian visas** for:
  - A young Eritrean woman with a child
  - 50 Afghan Judges through BR Legal
  - 2 Hazara Judges and a police officer and their families in Pakistan through AMO
  - A Sudanese couple seeking a ministerial Appeal Spouse visa.
  - A young woman seeking a reversal of an Administrative Appeals Tribunal judgement after breakdown
- **Family Reunion:**
  - A young woman has been successful in bringing her niece and 2 nephews from Africa. The Circle provided some extra settlement support as they receive no income support for their first year.
- Contribution towards a legal bill for a man with complicated situation.

# Annual Financial Statement

Annual Financial Statement, 1 July 2021 - 30 June 2022

	<u>2021-2022</u>	<u>2020-2021</u>
<b><u>Receipts:</u></b>		
Donations	360.00	360.00
Operational Income	5,856.90	5,954.03
Bank Interest	5.12	13.30
Investment Income	<u>89.35</u>	<u>136.55</u>
Total	<u>\$6,311.37</u>	<u>\$6,463.88</u>

<b><u>Expenses:</u></b>		
Bank Fees	367.20	370.25
Bendigo Merchant Charges	220.05	372.84
GiveNow Merchant Charges	2,499.21	3,429.16
Insurance	1,736.86	1,528.68
Membership Subscriptions		55.00
Website	<u>196.16</u>	<u>147.00</u>
Total	<u>\$5,019.48</u>	<u>\$5,902.93</u>
Net Profit	<u>\$ 1,291.89</u>	<u>\$ 560.95</u>

## **Reconciliation:**

Bank Accounts at 1/7/21

General Account	78,405.53
Investment Acct	81,921.85
GiveNow Clearing	<u>11,382.51</u>
Total	\$171,709.89

Add Receipts	6,311.37
Less Expenses	<u>5,019.48</u>
Balance	\$173,001.78

Funds Held in Trust for Circles

Add Balance 30/6/22	170,299.49
Less Balance 1/7/21	<u>170,085.20</u>
Total	\$173,216.07

Bank Accounts at 30/6/22

General Account	71,365.57
Investment Acct	83,911.20
GiveNow Clearing	<u>17,939.30</u>
Total	\$173,216.07

# Donors, Supporters and Volunteers



All our hundreds of donors, you are many and extraordinary and both regular as well as contributing when you can or in response to a special appeal. We couldn't do all the work we do without your generosity. We also thank the people who contributed in so many ways to our fundraising events, the artists, the cooks, people who came out to attend, the volunteers, the organisers, the promoters and the donors of raffle and auction items.

The organisations who gave significant grants to our Circles: Suzanne Elliot Trust, Adelaide City Council, CCI Giving, Catholic Diocese of Ballarat, various Uniting Church parishes, Marietta Resek Trust, Susan McKinnon Foundation, Glenside Lions Club, Morialta Trust, City of Mitcham and Unley Gardeners Plant rescue.

Thank you to all our Circle members who think and talk through the issues, support each other in the work, visit families, make friends, provide information, transport and assistance to families, run fundraisers, donate money to the Circles, keep the information flowing, send out appeals and talk to friends to raise awareness of the situation.

COFA would not be able to operate without the COFA committee whose role is to maintain financial integrity, make payments through the bank on behalf of the Circles, provide financial reports, provide governance support, write policies, respond to enquiries, and meet regularly to find solutions to issues as they arise. We thank Monica O'Wheel our chair, Bruce Whyatt our treasurer, Alex Reilly our Secretary, and members Denise Callaghan, Margaret Calder, Henrietta Wighton, Lesley Walker and Elisabeth Fagin Schmidt.

A special acknowledgement to Denise Callaghan who after many years as a committee member and a member of the Rapid Response Circle (110) has had to resign this year due to health concerns. We thank her for all she has contributed and we know you will continue to support your friends as they journey to Australian permanent residency and citizenship.

Thank you to Dinali Devasagayam for all her work administering our website and preparing our Annual Report from the minutes of the AGM. Bibijana Medved for all her work administering our Facebook page and promoting all our events on Google Ads.

The Effective Living Centre hosts all our meeting throughout the year, both committee meetings and our General meetings. We appreciate this generosity and hospitality.

Lastly, but certainly not least, we acknowledge and thank the asylum seekers and refugees who shared their stories and allowed Circle members to give them a hand, and the workers who referred them. Their courage and trust is what keeps members of Circle of Friends continuing to volunteer their time for this organisation.



## **COFA Management**

### **Committee Members**

Monica O'Wheel - Chair  
Alex Reilly - Secretary  
Bruce Whyatt – Treasurer  
Margaret Calder  
Elisabeth Fagan-Schmidt  
Lesley Walker  
Henrietta Wighton

### **Circle Convenors**

Blackwood - Hills Circle (7) – Jenny Lewis  
Willunga Circle (11) - Jayne Jennifer  
Family of Four (13) – Lesley Walker  
Family Nonaz (17) – Jenny Lewis  
Strathalbyn Southern Hills Circle (22) – Lib Doube  
Pilgrim Circle (27) - Margaret Chittleborough  
Kensington Circle (75) – Monica O'Wheel  
Job's Café Circle (92) – Paul Turley  
St Ignatius Refugee Education Support Circle (106) – Bernadette Burke  
Rapid Response Circle (110) - Trish Dundon  
Effective Living Centre Circle (111) – Pauline Kenny  
Lesley's Circle (113) - Lesley Walker  
Circle of Hope Circle (114) - Paul Turley  
Family Reunions Circle (115) - Monica O'Wheel  
The Manresa Circle (117) – Ruth Gordon  
SOS for Asylum Seekers Circle (121) - Henrietta Wighton  
Broadview Circle (122) – Rachel Lafain  
Circle 125 – Anna Ziersch  
Circle 126 – Anthea Falconberg  
Afghan Emergency Circle (127) – Monica O'Wheel  
Family ZaMa (128) – Fiona Ryan

All members are volunteers, providing time and energy from our passion and dedication to supporting asylum seekers and refugees.

Financial accounts are audited by Georgina Davison.



## **Circle of Friends Australia Incorporated**

ABN 39 367 145 336

Incorporation number: SA A41932

Registered with the ACNC as a Tax Deductible Gift Recipient

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