

The three organisations below urgently need funds to provide legal services for refugees

"The reality is there has never been a time of greater need for people seeking protection here. With 31,000 people – 11,000 of them in Victoria – about to have their cases decided, we remain at the forefront of defending the rights of refugees and stand determined to meet this need in the year ahead."

David Manne, Refugee Legal

Funding cuts deny justice

In 2015, the Federal government persisted with **severe funding cuts to legal assistance** for people making applications for protection here. This has created a recipe for systemic chaos and injustice, leading to an almost inevitable risk of someone being denied protection and sent back to persecution, torture – even death.

The paperwork minefield

People applying for asylum are now asked to present their case within 28 days. The application for a protection visa require answers to 184 questions including a detailed statement of fears. All in English. Some answers require information that goes back over 30 years or details 'since birth'. For a desperate person having had to escape a Syrian war zone or targeting by the Taliban in Afghanistan, every such question is a potential minefield risking a miscarriage of justice and a return to danger.

Refugee Legal (RILC: Refugee and Immigration Legal Centre)

<http://www.rilc.org.au/Home/Home.htm>

Email: rilc@rilc.org.au

RILC has been providing free legal assistance to thousands of asylum seekers, refugees and disadvantage migrants over the last 25 years. Donations are being sought to enable RILC to continue to provide essential free legal assistance to asylum seekers, refugees and disadvantaged migrants with their protection visa process. You can make a one off donation or regular monthly donations. *Donations are tax-deductible.*

RACS (Refugee Advice and Casework Services)

<http://www.racs.org.au/>

Email: admin@racs.org.au

In April 2014 the Federal Government announced to slash funding and access to free legal services for the majority of asylum seekers with immediate and significant consequences for the work performed by RACS, not to mention the future prospects of the vulnerable men, women, and children we assist.

RACS still receives a capped amount of money from the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) to assist people who came to Australia **by plane** and have then sought asylum. **No government funding has been allocated either for those who arrive by boat or to provide family reunion casework.**

ASRC (Asylum Seeker Resource Centre)

<http://www.asrc.org.au/>

Email: admin@asrc.org.au

This past year, the ASRC has witnessed a 500% increase in demand for services, for basics like food, blankets, nappies, **legal assistance** and shelter. However there are still 30,000 people living in the community who are seeking protection from harm, that have a right to thrive and prosper.

Now more than ever, we need you – our community, to drive positive change for people seeking asylum. Every dollar donated to the ASRC provides life changing assistance that enables thousands of people each year to find refuge, to feel safe, valued, and to access opportunities to be independent.

All donations to the ASRC are tax deductible.

Information provided by Rural Australians for Refugees is accurate as of 9 December 2015

