



RAR INC. FINANCE AND BUDGETRY CONSIDERATIONS

(31 October 2018)

The purpose of this paper is to discuss the allocation of our funds to our purposes/priorities.

It includes the discussion from the RAR committee meetings held on 6 September and 25 October 2018.

Currently we have a bank balance of \$19,347.

RAR Inc (National) is not simply another RAR group but an umbrella organisation for over 90 groups. RAR Inc is comprised of Member groups (currently numbering 46) and several affiliate groups.

RAR's purposes as per our Model Rules are:

- Support RAR members action to achieve positive change in asylum and refugee policies
- Support RAR members' and associates' activities in providing material and social assistance to refugees and people seeking asylum
- Advocate humane and constructive changes to Australia's refugee and immigration policies
- Raise public awareness about issues involving asylum

RAR Inc's functions to date have been facilitating, networking and advocacy for and on behalf of these groups.

RAR Inc also co-ordinates the bi-annual Conference.

(1) Advocacy, Meetings, Networking and Lobbying

A significant part of some of RAR's executive members duties and time is taken up by arranging, travelling to and participating in various meetings. These may be with sector groups, politicians and with RAR groups around the country.

Currently the costs associated with this work are being donated by the committee members. There has been no expenditure, as such, paid by RAR for this work to date.

Whilst committee members are happy to donate their time and effort it is suggested that if their work for RAR involves significant financial expense then they should be reimbursed for their costs or part thereof.

A suggestion could be that when the Committee meets, it should review the work undertaken, and planned to be undertaken, by committee members over the preceding and coming periods to ensure that suitable financial recompense is arranged and approved when necessary.

This function is arguably the main work of RAR Inc. It is difficult to put an initial budgetary allocation to this function. An allocation from the Conference surplus would appear to be appropriate.

(2) Developing Projects and Sponsorships

RAR Inc has not yet established a specific fund or a project related to our purpose. (For example, the establishment of a fund for Emergency Funding, Home Hosting or an Education Scholarship). If a project was selected the use of Crowd Sourcing may be appropriate.

Whilst RAR Inc may not yet have developed such a specific project, the work of RAR members and affiliates in this area is very significant.

The establishment of a project could assist in attracting donations/grants to RAR. Also, it may assist our application to become a Registered Charity, and to be considered for DGR (Deductible Gift Recipient) status by the Australian Taxation Office.

Currently, the Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group and the Ballina Region for Refugees have DGR status.

So far RAR Inc has contributed the sum of \$1,000 to each of the following:

- Save The Children Australia and
- Put #KidsOffNauru campaign run through Chuffed

An allocation to other Community Sponsorships could also be considered on a case by case basis.

(3) Bi Annual Conference

The running of the bi annual Conference has the potential to be a significant revenue raiser for RAR that will enable other RAR activities to be funded.

The surplus from the Albury/Wodonga Conference was \$15,135. The support of sponsorships and donations was crucial to the Conference's financial success.

In future, where an organisation wishes to be associated with a RAR event, it may be prudent to levy an appropriate fee.

We need to ensure funds are available to fund the next conference. Some conference expenditure is incurred before we begin to receive conference revenue.

Also, some of the surplus may go to RAR national admin expenses. Some future jobs/activities could be paid for rather than done voluntarily - especially if expertise was required.

(4) Website and Social Media

The necessity of having, maintaining and continually improving our website and social media is crucial for an organisation such as RAR.

An allocation of funds for this purpose is necessary – from Conference surplus (see (3) above).

(5) Administrative

Various on-going administrative type costs are incurred by RAR Inc.

These include Corporate registration fees, website fees, stationary/postage and accounting fees.

Most of these costs to date have been paid for by committee members.

The membership fees paid by RAR groups (currently voluntary \$10 fee per group with any additional contribution welcomed) could be allocated to cover these costs.

Membership fees received over the last 13 months total \$590 (5 @ \$100, 1 @\$20 and 7 @ \$10).

(6) Insurance

Current insurance is arranged for unincorporated groups by RAR Inc. Cost was \$575. Groups are charged \$60 for coverage.

Receipts from Groups to date are \$1920 (32 groups).

Surplus from insurance could be earmarked to Administrative expenses (see (5) above).

(7) Merchandise

Currently we receive revenue through the sale of tee shirts.

Receipts to date total \$2,680. Cost of the tee shirts sold is \$1,903.

Whilst the profit made on tee shirts is not a large amount, the tee shirts have an important benefit of exposing the RAR name and message.

Again, the gain earmarked to administrative (see (5) above).

(8) Donations Received

RAR must use donation funds received for the purpose for which they were donated.

Where the donor does not specify a purpose attached to the donation, the donor will be asked to specify whether the donation is for a specific purpose or to support RAR operations.

Donations are to be acknowledged with a thank you letter and receipt.

Refer to DGR status in section (2) above – Developing Projects and Sponsorships.

(9) Grant Applications (Government and Philanthropic)

All funding applications need to be approved by the Committee prior to their submission. There will be a need to appoint a person to oversee the application and the acquittal of any grant.

Where RAR National is being used to support grant applications we need to charge a surcharge/handling fee of 10 %. This will help to cover RAR's administrative costs.