



**Donations Campaign:
#Dig Deep During COVID-19
June – December 2020**

Tool Kit for RAR Groups

RAR National is leading a fund-raising campaign for direct support to refugees and people seeking asylum who have no income during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many who were supporting themselves through work have lost their jobs. They don't get Government benefits. Now they rely on RAR groups and community service organizations to survive. These organizations, and our own RAR groups, desperately need donations.

Some of us have extra cash because our activities are more restricted during this pandemic. We have no idea how long it will last. This campaign is a call for our members and supporters to consider **making a regular donation, however small, for the next six months** to a group or organization that is providing direct support – money, food, rent assistance – to these vulnerable people.

This tool-kit is to enable RAR groups to run the **#DigDeep** campaign locally. It will help us ask our members and supporters to make a regular donation. The first step is to identify refugee support organizations to whom locally raised funds will go. There are some suggestions in this tool-kit. RAR National will not collect any funds.

Your group may already be running your own fund-raising campaigns. That's great. But this campaign is targeted to those supporters who may not already donate. Please consider how it can best work in your area, with your members. Use whatever is useful for you from this tool-kit. It is designed to help you run the campaign over six months.

Key materials:

1. A message from our Patron, Julian Burnside.
2. Draft communication for you to use with your group. Please amend as you want to.
3. List of community service organizations supporting refugees and people seeking asylum
4. Case studies examples. Please add your own.
5. Ways to promote the campaign

Evaluation:

Because this campaign is to encourage our members and supporters to make their own donations to groups or community service organizations, we need to find a way to assess what the take-up has been, to help us improve further campaigns. Towards the end of this six month period, we will ask you to send out a brief survey to your members and supporters, to find out if the campaign made any difference to their giving. We look forward to your support to do this mailout, at that time.

Louise Redmond

National President, Rural Australians for Refugees

1. Message from Julian Burnside to RAR Groups (*approved by Julian 11/05/20*)

Dear RAR Groups,

I am a strong advocate for the work that RAR groups do, to support refugees and people seeking asylum, and call for changes in the Government's policies. This has been very personal for me, for 20 years now. I am proud to be a patron of RAR.

Now I join with RAR National to ask all RAR groups to get behind the current donations campaign: **"Dig Deep During COVID-19"**. The Government has refused to include people on temporary visas and bridging visas in their income support programs. These people are very vulnerable. Those who were working will have lost their jobs. They are without savings, or family to support them. More and more, they are relying on community groups and service organizations for basic support. They are desperate. Many people seeking asylum (as you know, have committed no offence at all) are held in conditions which maximise the chance that they will catch Covid-19.

This donations campaign asks us all to consider giving a little, or a little more, over the next six months. Many of us can no longer enjoy a cup of coffee or a lunch in a café, as part of our routine. This campaign asks us all to give the money we might be saving to a group who is giving direct support to these vulnerable people.

Our donations will make a huge difference to people who have no income support. Please consider it.

Thank you

Julian Burnside AO QC

Patron of RAR.

2. Draft letter for RAR groups to use

Dear RAR Group members

Dig Deep During COVID-19

RAR National is launching this Donations Campaign. It will run from June to December 2020. This campaign is to encourage all our members and supporters to make a regular contribution, however small, to provide direct support to refugees and people seeking asylum who have no income support during the COVID-19 pandemic. There will also be a financial fall-out from COVID when the restrictions are lifted. People on temporary visas and bridging visas – many of whom were working and supporting themselves – do not get JobSeeker or JobKeeper income from the Government.

While big efforts are being made to get the Government to change this policy, thousands of vulnerable people need money for food, rent and living costs NOW. They are calling on our RAR groups, and on community service organizations for help, at a level that our group / these organizations have not seen before. We need to step up and dig deep to help.

Many of us may have a regular café-coffee or ‘lunch with friends’ routine. Now we can’t do that. This is an opportunity to use those saved dollars for this campaign. Your donation, however small, whatever you can afford, will help a family in distress. We are suggesting a regular donation, for the next six months.

You can make your donation directly to the organization which is working to support refugees and people seeking asylum. You chose where your donation goes.

We suggest:

Your RAR group if you provide direct support

Local community service or religious organizations in your area, that you know are working with these vulnerable people

One or more of the major community service organizations in your State. (see separate list)

Signed

Convenor / Secretary.

3. Major community service organizations who work directly with refugees and people seeking asylum.

QLD:	Romero Centre Brisbane Tax deductible	https://romero.mercycommunity.org.au/donate/
NSW:	Asylum Seeker Centre Sydney Tax deductible	https://secure.asylumseekerscentre.org.au/
VIC:	Asylum Seeker Resource Centre Tax deductible Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project	https://www.asrc.org.au/donate/ 1300 692 772 https://basp.org.au/
TAS:	Crowd funding campaign	<i>Helen to provide details.</i>
SA:	Circle of Friends Adelaide. One of these Circles, Circle 124, has a drive on to deliver food, medicine and basic supplies to people on Bridging Visas. Tax deductible	 20.04.22 Circle of Friends Donation pag Click on this link to a form which you complete for a donation.
WA	Centre for Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Detainees. CARAD	https://www.carad.org.au/donate
NT		

Helen Merrick will help groups run their own crowd funding campaign. Please contact her.

rasetas@gmail.com

4. Case studies

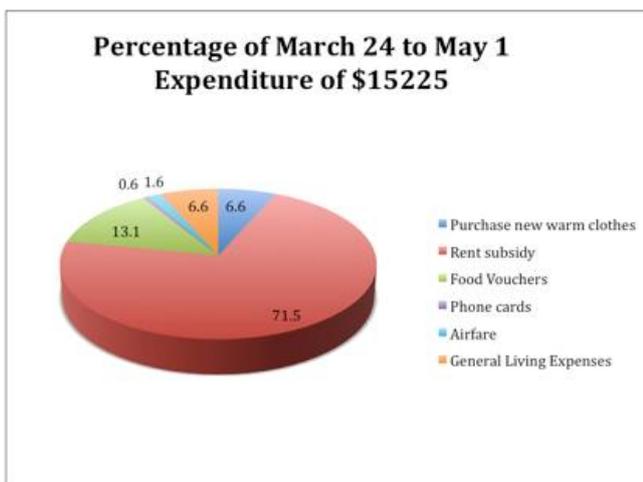
Rashmi lives in regional NSW, with her son who is 12 years old. She is Tamil, and a widow, after her husband was killed in the civil war in Sri Lanka in 2012. She fled her home country fearing for her life and that of her son, Kasun. Her application for asylum was turned down in mid-2019. She has pro-bono legal support to appeal this, but lost her Centrelink and Medicare benefits in the meantime. She found low paid domestic work and was able to manage, supported by a RAR group. However, that work has gone and she is totally reliant on the RAR group for her rent, food and living expenses.

A volunteer in South Australia writes of her experience of support:

My Facebook page includes advice on how to email the Red Cross/Vinnies for money to pay utility bills or rent, information on ringing me if they need a prescription or to pay their car rego/metro ticket top-up. (I've received donations from friends to cover prescriptions, and mobile phone bills).

Mobiles: Most are paying about \$110-\$140 per month – most have either \$45 to cover phone calls & data and the rest is to pay for the mobile itself – they are ones with access to Wifi – other with no access to wifi pay about \$100 a month for unlimited data so that they can watch movies in their own language and make daily phone calls to their wives & children overseas).

One RAR group has spent \$11,000 in March on rent support. Last year they spent \$9,000 in the whole year.



5. Ways to promote the campaign

Suggested actions:

- Email to **everybody** on your supporter list. Make it a stand-alone email, separate from your regular newsletter
- Add messages to your Facebook posts, asking people to support the campaign
- Refer to the campaign in your regular newsletter
- Regularly let people know if the Government still has not changed the policy of financial support for people on temporary and bridging visas. (Commonwealth or State)
- Share stories about how this support is helping families.
- Link this campaign to news highlights about advocacy campaigns from the Refugee Council and others
- Give donors a sense of empowerment - 'even if we can't impact Government policy, we can help people who are desperate in these tough times'
- Encourage members and supporters to add messages to their own Facebook and Twitter posts (examples below)
- Towards the end of the year, push for one-off donations from those who may not have been involved yet.

Suggested FB / Twitter posts:

- RAR Donations Campaign -> support *insert name of your RAR group / community service organization*. (*link to donations page*) They are keeping food on the table and a secure home for people without work and government benefits during COVID-19. #DigDeepDuringCOVID-19
- Extra money in your wallet because you're stuck at home? How about sharing that for six months, with *insert name of your RAR group / community service organization* (*link to donations page*) #DigDeepDuringCOVID-19
- Can you afford a regular donation for six months for a refugee family? Support *insert name of your RAR group / community service organization* (*link to donations page*). #DigDeepDuringCOVID-19
- Be an everyday hero! Use your coffee / lunch money to help out a refugee family who get no work or Government benefits during COVID-19 impact. Support *insert name of your RAR group / community service organization* (*link to donations page*). #DigDeepDuringCOVID-19