

# HOW YOU AND YOUR COMPANY CAN HELP

The ASRC is there to care for the most vulnerable and at risk asylum seekers in our community, many of whom have nowhere else to turn for help. Around 75 per cent of those we help have no income, no work rights and no access to Centrelink benefits or Medicare.

The ASRC receives less than four per cent of its funds from the State government and is primarily staffed and operated by volunteers. It relies solely on donations from individuals, companies and philanthropic bodies, and on its various fundraising activities, in order to offer a range of programs and services.

## How your donation will be used?

When you make a donation to the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, you are directly supporting asylum seekers. Every week we assist more than 500 people seeking asylum. People who are often traumatised, tired, destitute and in need of support, be it food, medical care, counselling or accessing the right legal advice.

## A little goes a long way...

- ▶ \$5 will enable us to buy a two hour Met Ticket so that an asylum seeker can access public transport and visit our centre
- ▶ \$10 will enable us to provide food for a week to five asylum seekers
- ▶ 20 will enable an asylum seeker in detention to have access to a phone card to call their family overseas
- ▶ \$50 will provide free medical care to 10 asylum seekers each week
- ▶ \$100 will provide financial aid to five asylum seeker families in crisis
- ▶ \$200 will fund our Human Rights Law Program for a month.

## Or you can think big...!

- ▶ \$20,000 would fund a two day position in Counselling for 12 months
- ▶ \$20,000 would fund a two day position for a solicitor to coordinate the ASRC's Federal Court work for 12 months
- ▶ \$20,000 would fund a two day position for a housing worker to find desperately needed accommodation for homeless asylum seekers



## A FEW IDEAS TO GET YOU STARTED

### Casual Day

Casual Days – where staff donate a gold coin to wear casual dress to work – are an easy way to raise funds to help asylum seeker families in crisis. Simply put on your jeans (or whatever your theme is) and you are helping people in need.

### Cost offset

You can help the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre meet some of its day-to-day running and promotional costs. Perhaps you can negotiate the extension of a service your company uses to include the ASRC? Or use your purchasing power to reduce the cost of a particular good or service to the ASRC. Any assistance is always appreciated.

There are a range of overheads you can help us with, including: -

- ▶ Mailing costs
- ▶ Printing and design
- ▶ Stationery
- ▶ IT support
- ▶ Utility bills



## Donations and Gifts

Your company may like to make a gift to a specific ASRC project or program you or your staff have a particular interest in. The ASRC can provide you with all the information you require to make a decision about what your company would like to support. We can arrange a visit by one of our workers to talk to your staff about the real needs that exist in our community and what the ASRC is doing to address them. All gifts of \$2 and over are fully tax deductible.



## Gifts-in-Kind

The ASRC regularly needs Gifts-in-Kind support. That is, donations of physical items such as used office equipment (in excellent working order) - printers, computers, faxes, photocopiers – are also needed. Similarly, donating items for an ASRC event raffle/auction to help raise funds is another way your organisation can assist. Eg, Holidays, Gift Vouchers, Electrical goods.

## Employee Giving Programs

You don't need to wait until the end of the financial year to save tax. The ASRC can help you save tax immediately by helping you set up a *Pay Packet Pledge* Employee Giving Program in your workplace. This program offers employees the opportunity to automatically deduct donations to the ASRC from their pre-tax pay. The benefits to staff are immediate as you don't need to wait until the end of the financial year to claim your deduction.



## Hosting Corporate Fund-raising Events

Perhaps your company could sponsor and host a Networking/ Fundraising event inviting your customers, clients, suppliers ... even competitors, with proceeds going to help asylum seekers through the ASRC.

Events you could consider hosting: -

- ▶ Conferences
- ▶ Corporate dinners or luncheons
- ▶ Trivia or film nights
- ▶ Sporting events such as golf days
- ▶ Product launches
- ▶ PR events

## Fundraising

Your company or group can hold its own ASRC fundraising activity. We can work with you to decide on an area that is meaningful to your staff and help you plan for a successful event. We are especially interested in fundraising activities that help promote awareness around asylum seeker issues.

Some possible ideas include: -

- ▶ Casual clothes day
- ▶ Chocolate or lolly drive
- ▶ A Friday sausage sizzle or BBQ
- ▶ Afternoon or morning teas
- ▶ Swear jars
- ▶ Late for meetings penalty jar
- ▶ Raffles
- ▶ Footy tipping competition
- ▶ Spare change money in a money box
- ▶ Guessing games (Snakes in a jar count etc).

Please contact us for some creative brainstorming for a fundraiser that is meaningful to your staff.



## Mail outs

We strive to stay in regular contact with our supporters and to educate people about asylum seeker issues and ASRC programs. Unfortunately this can prove costly and we are limited in what we can do. You can help in many ways.

- ▶ Sponsor an ASRC appeal mail-out
- ▶ Include an ASRC brochure in your company mail outs to clients, customers or suppliers.
- ▶ Have an ASRC brochure designed or printed by your company's suppliers

## Sponsorship

Your company can sponsor ASRC events, fundraising appeals and campaigns. With the gift of sponsorship, you can help us reach thousands more people around Melbourne, as well as promote your own company through naming rights and promotional opportunities.

## Give Asylum Seekers a Ticket to Ride

The Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC) supports over 3000 asylum seekers. In order to assist one of the most disadvantaged and destitute communities in Melbourne, the ASRC needs to provide them with a ticket to ride. Many Asylum seekers have no means of income, no access to Centrelink payments and no rights to work. They are unable to pay for public transport, a basic and essential service on which they are totally dependant.

YOU CAN PROVIDE URGENT AND PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE BY:

- ▶ Donating Daily Adult full fare met tickets directly to the ASRC
- ▶ Holding a breakfast, lunch or dinner, invite a guest speaker (can be arranged by the ASRC) and charge per plate
- ▶ Have collection buckets at your local community or club events
- Collect sponsorships for a marathon, walk, cycle or swim
- ▶ Sell chocolates or cakes at your local school, church or sporting club
- ▶ Charge one met ticket for a coffee at your workplace

STANDARD MET CARD PRICES (AS OF 1st APRIL 2008)

ZONE 1	Daily Adult Full Fare	\$6.50
	2 Hour Adult Full Fare	\$3.50
ZONE 1 & 2	Daily Adult Full Fare	\$10.10
	2 Hour Adult Full Fare	\$6.50



## Phone Cards – Helping Asylum Seekers Keep Connected

With over 2000 asylum seekers to support, the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre is in great need of donations to provide our clients with phone cards. Many of those we work with have been separated from their families for years, often being forced to leave their wives and young children behind as they fled for their lives. This ongoing family separation is devastating, but a phone card donation will allow them to stay connected.



Many asylum seekers are denied work rights and are ineligible for access to the Australian welfare system and therefore have no means of support. This forced destitution means that without your support, they are unable to make contact with their families. This is why we are asking for your help!

You can help with a donation of phone cards, or if you happen to be one of those people who are only satisfied with larger scale endeavours, try your hand at holding your own fundraising event.

- ▶ Put your body on the line! Collect sponsorship for a marathon, walk, or cycle
- ▶ Clean out your closets and hold a garage sale – everybody wins!
- ▶ Set up a stall and sell lamingtons or lemonade at your local school, church or sporting club
- ▶ What the heck... Organise a benefit concert. Let's think BIG!

We know that maneuvering your way around the complex phone card market can be a nightmare so we've made things really easy:

### International Phone Cards

We recommend Bharat, Estar, or Day & Night which offer super cheap international call rates and can be purchased at your local newsagency, supermarket or petrol station. Or go to [www.phonecardselector.com.au](http://www.phonecardselector.com.au) a website that allows you to purchase these cards online. They will even mail them to the ASRC for free!

### Mobile Phone Cards

Any denomination, with any of the major pay-as-you-go service providers: Optus, Telstra, 3, or Vodaphone.

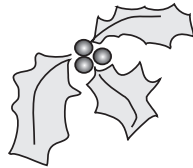
### Walkers

From time to time we require people to distribute flyers and other printed material to letterboxes around Melbourne. It's a great team-building exercise in more ways than one – your staff can keep fit and help out at the same time.

## Word of Mouth

At the ASRC, we spend very little to no money on advertising and marketing, so spreading the word about the work people like you make possible through our services and programs, helps a great deal. By introducing the ASRC to your contacts, or by including information about the ASRC and providing links to the ASRC website on your company internet/intranet site, you help us help more people in need. Not only that but you also highlight your company's responsible corporate citizenship role.

## Bring Some Cheer at Christmas



### Christmas Hampers

Your staff may like to collect goods for Christmas Hampers to make the season a little bit brighter for an asylum seeker family in need.

Personal care items are always needed. Things like lotions, soaps, powder, make-up, handcream, shampoo, bubblebath, haircare products, etc. These items are especially good for women in our refuges escaping domestic violence. A little bit of pampering goes a long way towards positive self esteem. And because these items are often costly, they are the sort of things our clients often cannot afford to buy for themselves.

Other items that are popular are chocolate, plum puddings, cake, shortbread, lollies and the like; things which are a little bit festive to really put some cheer into our client's lives.

\*\* We need different sorts of hampers for Families, Teenagers, single women. For a more comprehensive list, contact the ASRC.

### Christmas "Giving Tree"

Having a "Christmas Tree" where staff can purchase presents for ASRC clients is another really helpful and worthwhile idea. We can provide your company with a specific list of ages and genders of people who presents are needed for. We can also provide a list of first names of people if your staff would like to make their gifts a little more personal and attach cards to the gifts.

### Plum Puddings, Mince Tarts, Christmas Wine ... And More!

Each year, the ASRC sells a range of Christmas merchandise including plum puddings, mince tarts, cards, and wine as a fundraiser. Your company could hold a Plum Pudding Drive involving your staff or purchase its corporate gifts from our range. Simply let us know how we can help!

## The ASRC's Corporate Wish List

### Money:

- ▶ Bottomline Funding
- ▶ Program Funding – sponsorship of core positions
- ▶ No interest fixed-term Loan

### Donors:

- ▶ Employee Donation Schemes – Pay Packet Pledge Program
- ▶ Fundraising Campaigns
- ▶ Fundraising Activities
- ▶ Take part in profile/awareness and fundraising campaigns

### Sponsorship:

- ▶ Events – e.g. Search for the Smartest Law Firm, Global Gourmet Fair, Comedy Trivia Night

### Professional Services:

- ▶ IT (audit, hardware, software, licenses, training, intranet)
- ▶ HR (audit, ongoing service – personnel, organisational)
- ▶ PR/Communications
- ▶ Cost offsetting (pick up bills)

### Goods In kind:

- ▶ Raffle and auction prizes for fundraising events
- ▶ Office furniture, equipment and stationery
- ▶ Christmas (hampers, presents)
- ▶ Tickets/cards (met cards, movies, phone cards, gift vouchers)
- ▶ Cost offsetting (pick up bills)

### Volunteers:

- ▶ Hold an internal fundraising event – Movie night, Dinner, Chocolate Drive, etc
- ▶ Envelope stuffing
- ▶ Letterbox dropping
- ▶ Awareness Campaigns
- ▶ Fundraising Activities

### Other:

- ▶ Accessible storage (office, housing)

