

2022 annual report



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2 acknowledgement of country

JRS Australia acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community.

We pay our deep respect to elders past and present, and extend our respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Our offices are located on Dharug and Gadigal Country, and we also work remotely from other locations.

We recognise that we live and work on Country that always was and always will be Aboriginal land, and has not been ceded.

JRS Australia is committed to adopting environmentally sustainable practices. As part of this, we are prioritising the development of online resources and reducing our printing and mail-outs. Following consultation with our supporters we continue to send print versions of our Annual Report and LINK Newsletter to all who have indicated that preference. If you would like to be added to our distribution list for hard copies of our publications please let us know via info@jrs.org.au or +61 2 9356 3888.

Thank you! JRS Australia is committed to taking action to care for our common home, in line with the Australian Jesuit Province Apostolic Plan 2019-24 priority "Heal humanity and our world" and Pope Francis' Laudato Si' plea that we: "hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor".

Front cover: Felicity, a JRS volunteer, participated in a JRS Australia Table Talk event and offered a hug to Idrissa, one of our Refugee Leadership Program participants. JRS Australia's community engagement team conducts Table Talk events where our refugee leadership participants speak to communities about their lived experience.



Board of Directors

Sr Annette Cunliffe, RSC
(Chairperson, retired in June 2022)

Dr Eve Lester (Chairperson from June 2022)

Dr Elizabeth Biok (Deputy Chairperson)

Catherine Verschuer

Fr Gregory Jacobs, SJ

Muzafar Ali

Hon. Reba Meagher

Fr Sacha Bermudez-Goldman SJ (from June 2022)

Edwina MacArthur (Treasurer; non-Directorial)

Wendy Fothergill (Secretary; non-Directorial, until December 2022)

Staff

Alma Gatica - Philanthropy and Development Coordinator

Amelia Savage - Refugee Leadership and Advocacy Manager

Anjali Roberts - Research and Policy Officer (Housing) (until June 2022)

Bryant King - Climate-Related Displacement Intern (until September 2022)

Chloe Tremblay-Goyette - SGBV Specialist Caseworker

Colette Thompson - Philanthropy Advisor (until March 2022)

Craig Harris - Finance Assistant (from May 2022)

Georgia-Rae Cobon - Complex Casework & Emergency Relief Manager (from April 2022)

Hedra Abdo - Finance Assistant (Maternity Leave from April 2022)

Holla David - Schools Engagement Officer (from September 2022)

Jane Turner - Volunteer Coordinator (until October 2022)

Josephine Rechichi - Project Coordinator - Finding Safety (maternity leave from March 2022)

Katie Spiroski - Casework Manager (until February 2022)

Kevser Pirbudak - Complex Caseworker (maternity leave from March 2022)

Kim Mandelik - Office Manager

Maeve Brown - Assistant Country Director

Martina Josephson - Project Officer - Finding Safety (until November 2022)

Michael Melville - Foodbank & Material Aid Officer

Nishadh Rego - Policy, Advocacy, and Communications Manager (until April 2022)

Noora Jasim - Employment Support Officer (from July 2022)

Rigzin Yuthok - Complex Caseworker (from July 2022)

Rose Maninyitia - Intake and Referral Officer (from May 2022)

Sara Muzamil - SGBV Specialist Caseworker

Shaheen Whyte - Caseworker (until March 2022)

Shatha Jajo - Project Coordinator - Finding Safety (from March 2022)

Shuja Jamal - Head of Policy, Advocacy & Communications (from June 2022)

Tamara Domicelj - Country Director

Tamana Mirzada - Employment Project Coordinator

Tonny Ahmed - Caseworker (until September 2022)

Zahra Hashemabadi Barat - Foodbank & Material Aid Officer

Zaki Haidari - Employment Support Worker and Leadership Coordinator (until June 2022)

Zoe Grant - Community & Schools Engagement Coordinator

Volunteers

We are supported across many aspects of our work by a large and dedicated team of volunteers who are too numerous to name here (286 people in 2022). We are immensely grateful for the gift of your time and talents. Your contributions are critical to the delivery of our mission.

4 chair's message



In 2022, the calls upon all dimensions of the JRS Australia mission to accompany, serve and advocate for refugees, people seeking asylum, and other migrants in a vulnerable situation continued with increasing levels of complexity. Led by Tamara Domicelj,

a talented practitioner, advocate and strategic thinker, the high-performing and dedicated team at JRS Australia continued to deliver on its mission in extraordinary ways. There is no doubt that JRS Australia 'punches above its weight', though not always in the spotlight. In our work, we encountered the many dimensions of the long tail of COVID-19 that have impacted not only on a population whose exclusion from social protection and support has been policy-driven but also on the staff and volunteers who work with them.

There is no doubt that JRS Australia 'punches above its weight', though not always in the spotlight.

As with many other refugee sector organisations, JRS operates with a level of financial precarity that reflects the unpredictability of this highly charged area of public policy. Stabilising support such as the generosity of the Parramatta Diocese under the warm leadership of Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen and of the Sisters of Mercy, Parramatta, has provided us with premises, being our main office and the cottage that houses our Finding Safety project. We are deeply grateful that these premises will be available to us through to at least the end of 2024, providing us with much needed breathing space.

While we face continued financial challenges, and the impact of COVID-19 remains strongly in evidence, careful budgeting, skillful fundraising efforts and deft financial management delivered a manageable deficit with healthy reserves at year's end. We are sincerely grateful to all who have continued to show both

generosity and trust in JRS' capacity to accompany, serve and advocate for the people we serve with care, creativity and companionship.

A change of government during the year was a significant moment, signalling a series of important changes to refugee policy. Most notably, the Albanese Government confirmed that refugees on TPVs (Temporary Protection Visas) and SHEVs (Safe Haven Enterprise Visas) would be able to transition to permanent residency, with family reunion opportunities to follow. These processes will take time. However, we have already borne witness to and experienced the joy and relief that has come with the end of an intense and protracted period of policy-driven human suffering and uncertainty. Still, we remain very concerned that many others with whom we work remain caught in the grips of other policies that are yet to shift.

During the year, the Chair of our Board Sr Annette Cunliffe RSC retired after ten years of dedicated service to the JRS Board, including seven years as Chair. As incoming Chair, and on behalf of the Board, it is my privilege to place on record how enormously grateful we are to her for her work on the Board, and the kindness and acuity she brought to the task. Her contribution was duly recognised through the award of the Companions Medal of the Society of Jesus at the Province Gathering in September 2022.

We sometimes describe the JRS mission as one that engages our heads, our hearts and our hands. My warm thanks to Tamara Domicelj and her team as well as the JRS Australia Board, and our dedicated team of volunteers who all embrace this mission with grace, passion and dedication in all its dimensions. To conclude, from all of us at JRS Australia, we offer our deepest and most heartfelt thanks to you, our supporters, for your generous gifts of time, financial support, food, workspace, expertise and love. Thank you for walking with us on this important and humbling journey.

Dr Eve Lester
Chair of the Board, JRS Australia



I could not be more proud of the grit and purpose demonstrated by the JRS Australia community across the turbulent highs and lows of 2022. I refer to the people whom we serve, our staff, Board, volunteers, donors, as well as our school, parish,

diaspora leaders, community sector and pro bono partners. Your courage, compassion and commitment are inspirational; thank you.

At a time of unprecedented need, we cultivated hope as we acted with urgency on the frontlines to triage emergency relief, while supporting people and organisations to tackle entrenched barriers to self-reliance and create pathways to safety. We advocated for life-saving measures for individuals, co-led calls for systemic reforms and engaged in public campaigns. And as pandemic restrictions eased, we made space to gather in person more regularly, nurturing our community with shared activities, meals and companionship.

In 2022 we surpassed the grim global milestone of 100 million people displaced by persecution, conflict, generalised violence and human rights violations. Conflicts proliferated and the speed and scale of displacement continued to outpace solutions drastically.

Most people who have fled their homes remain displaced within their countries of origin. A small minority of the remainder find lasting protection in another country.

Those left waiting for a solution often lack access to essential services, education and livelihoods, and are disproportionately exposed to the ravages of food insecurity, infectious diseases, gender-based violence, the climate emergency and multi-layered discrimination. And they are often separated from the mutual support traditionally afforded by families and communities.

In the Australia of 2022, we continued to confront such challenges, including soaring food insecurity, housing stress and gender-based violence, denial of access to tertiary education, complex trauma and

forced separation from family. Many terrible hardships endured by people seeking asylum and refugees within Australia's jurisdiction have been generated by design. In 2022, the consequences of policies of exclusion and abuse remained devastating and stark. JRS' focus upon accompanying, serving and advocating in areas of acute need, where there may be no other support available, proved warranted once again.

2022 also delivered a groundswell of calls for change. A new federal government received a mandate for reform heralding a more just and compassionate response to people seeking asylum and refugees, with potential to save and transform many lives. We encountered a listening Parliament, and a long wait for announcements as to the form and timing of policy amendments. We took heart in the joy of new optimism for those with cause to feel it, and rued the anguish of those whose prospects appeared unchanged. Over intervening months, we have celebrated major gains, suffered big disappointments, and continued championing the rights of all whom we serve.

At a time of unprecedented need, we cultivated hope as we acted with urgency on the frontlines to triage emergency relief, while supporting people and organisations to tackle entrenched barriers to self-reliance and create pathways to safety.

It is a privilege to accompany and work with so many extraordinary people. As recognised in the Global Compacts for Refugees and on Migration, we need a 'whole-of-society approach' to tackling displacement and upholding rights. We are clearly trending in that direction here.

In 2022, we farewelled wonderful staff with sadness and gratitude, and eagerly welcomed talented new team members. We also farewelled and welcomed many incredible volunteers, including members of our extraordinary Board of Directors, who give their time and talents in abundance. To Dr Eve Lester, our

current Chair, my deepest thanks for your unwavering support, exceptional leadership and staunch dedication to the well-being of the extended JRS team and all whom we serve. To Sr Annette Cunliffe, who retired as Chair in June 2022, we cherish your myriad gifts and decade of loving service.

Amidst the many challenges of 2022, we sought to bolster sustainability through a multi-tiered strategy, involving cost-cutting, income-generation and honing of our contributions within values-driven partnerships. The team weathered the significant associated pressures with grace, maintaining focus and high performance. For this, and so much more, I thank them deeply, including our wonderful Assistant Country Director, Maeve Brown.

Later this year we will embark upon a new strategic planning cycle, building on these foundations, and further aligning with JRS' evolving global and regional priorities. We hope you will join our reflections as we work to set apt and attainable goals, leverage our strengths, and secure our future in complex times when our accompaniment, service and advocacy are in increasingly high demand, and innovation is required sector-wide. Further information will follow.

Warmest thanks for journeying with us as we face the future with hope and resolve, clear in the knowledge that our efforts are vital and that, together, we are gaining ground.

Tamara Domicelj



JRS staff and Board gather after a Board meeting at the St Patrick's Cathedral in Parramatta in June 2022.



Programs and Services

In 2022, JRS Australia...

- served over **3,000** people seeking asylum, refugees and migrants in vulnerable situations
- provided over **21,000** instances of service



- provided over **10,000** food parcels and/or food payments to an average of **200** households per week

- provided **1,081** people with **6,942** instances of specialist casework support, including support to address housing needs or homelessness, physical health, mental health crises, emergency financial relief and more

- supported over **300** women at risk of or who have experienced SGBV, through the JRS Finding Safety Project and Women's Space. This includes **1,196** instances of service



- assisted **159** people through the Employment Program, including **60** people who gained paid employment and **70** who participated in accredited training, including security, white card, traffic control, first aid and forklift courses
- engaged **50** employment program partners to help the people we serve access training and mentoring support and find meaningful employment



- assisted **788** people to complete NSW Opal Card concession applications, ensuring access to discounted transport.

And...

- **286** dedicated volunteers donated over **7,000** hrs of service.

Advocacy and community engagement

In 2022, JRS Australia...



- delivered **61** workshops and awareness raising events, reaching **7,216** people from schools, parishes and the broader community

- supported **5,017** students to take action by running food drives, writing to their MPs, volunteering with JRS and organising fundraising events



- provided **96** opportunities at community events and schools for refugee leaders to engage in

direct advocacy and awareness raising



- met with **23** state and federal parliamentarians and ministers, and numerous other high-level officials to advocate for fairer and more humane asylum policies

- collaborated with diaspora leaders to organise **2** vigils calling for more support for at-risk people from Afghanistan



In 2022, JRS Australia served over 3,000 people seeking asylum, refugees and migrants in vulnerable situations

8 programs and services

Complex Casework & Emergency Relief

The JRS Casework and Emergency Relief team responded to a large number of requests for assistance in 2022 and provided support to 1,088 individuals across close to 7,000 instances of service, including 1,353 emergency relief payments, largely funded by the Multicultural NSW Emergency Relief Support Grant.

As 2022 began, the people we serve continued to feel the impact of COVID-19, but the greatest challenge by the end of year was the pressures associated with the rising cost of living which is currently being felt widely across Australia. The team responded to large volumes of requests for assistance with high rental arrears, large utility bills, and access to adequate food and essential items for families, such as nappies, clothing, school supplies and blankets.

The Casework and Emergency Relief team also assisted many individuals to purchase essential medications; access GPs, psychologists and psychiatrists; and receive free dental appointments, in partnership with Filling the Gap. Through a partnership with OneSight, the JRS team organised an Eye Clinic, which allowed approximately 130 clients, including many children, to receive eye examinations and a pair of glasses at no cost. The JRS team also responded to many calls and requests for assistance with mental health referrals as clients expressed feelings of hopelessness due to extended visa processing delays, family separation, and exclusion from social security safety nets, medicare, and work rights, amongst other factors.

JRS clients continued to face huge barriers to accessing safe and affordable housing, with many clients unfortunately experiencing primary or secondary homelessness, receiving eviction notices, increases to their rent, or accumulating significant arrears. The team continued to make many referrals to the JRS Employment team to help find suitable work or to find more work for those who were under-employed. The team has also partnered with Goodstart, an early childhood education and care provider, to find free childcare for children under 5 years old, which has been key to assisting parents to

find work. Many parents continue to struggle to find work due to the high cost of childcare, and the JRS team continues to seek viable childcare options for families with young children.

Foodbank

Throughout 2022, the JRS Foodbank continued to provide food assistance to individuals and families. The JRS Foodbank team, managed by two part-time food and material aid officers and a team of dedicated volunteers, supported 120 households with a bag of staple items each week and an additional 80 families and individuals with a small payment towards food and essential items. This resulted in approximately 10,000 instances of service for JRS clients in 2022.

A team of volunteer packers organise the pantry and pack the delivery bags each week, doing an incredible job keeping the Foodbank running.

The JRS pantry is stocked by generous donations from supporters in the community, including local parishes, schools, community members and small businesses. A team of volunteer packers organise the pantry and pack the delivery bags each week, doing an incredible job keeping the Foodbank running. Volunteer drivers and dispatchers make deliveries each week, ensuring



JRS Australia volunteer Ellen and her mother, Rosanne, pack Mother's Day gifts for Foodbank recipients

that food and essential items are delivered safely and reliably to households in need.

Following the end of the COVID-19 lockdowns in Greater Sydney the Foodbank experienced a decrease in donations as supporters and volunteers resumed their normal lives after the pandemic and were less able to donate their time or extra groceries. Maintaining adequate stock for the Foodbank is a weekly endeavour, and JRS Australia’s caseworkers rely on the Foodbank, often referring clients experiencing situations of immense hardship for immediate food relief and assistance.

Employment

The JRS Employment Program grew significantly in 2022. As COVID-19 restrictions eased, an increasing number of job vacancies became available and more initiatives were introduced by JRS to continue supporting access to meaningful employment among people seeking asylum, refugees, and temporary migrants. This included the growth and engagement of more clients across different demographics, such as young people and newly arrived refugees from Afghanistan. As a result, 159 new participants were registered to receive employment support in 2022, with the program supporting 287 people over the year.

Given the diversity of the client groups, the Employment Program provides a holistic, tailored approach to support individual employment goals. This service is delivered by the program team, volunteers, and external partners and involves

extensive one-on-one support from the initial consultation through to ongoing guidance and advice post-employment placement.

The replacement of remote sessions with face-to-face appointments also led to more in-house training to support capacity building and skill development. This included the delivery of accredited courses in partnership with City East Community College, digital literacy workshops in partnership with SEWA Australia, and a youth focussed work readiness workshop with TalentRise. The group training enabled the program to build a connection with clients and partners, and a better understanding of the aspirations and barriers to engaging with employment.

...159 new participants were registered to receive employment support in 2022, with the program supporting 287 people over the year.

Through the Warehousing and Retail Taster Program clients got the opportunity to meet with hiring managers at Harris Farm Markets and Woolworths. JRS Australia also organised a job fair in partnership with the House of Welcome (HoW) and the Asylum Seekers Center (ASC). More than 100 participants attended the event, which featured 16 exhibitors offering employment, education, and training opportunities.

Unfortunately, obtaining employment remains a challenge for many who face additional barriers, such as a lack of local knowledge, language barriers, and a lack of access to technology for remote or hybrid employment. One of the major challenges affecting the capacity to look for work was the affordability of childcare for single-headed households, particularly for women. Women living in single-headed households are usually the most disadvantaged, as they do not have access to a safety net and often lack social networks or community connections, and therefore remain isolated.



The JRS Employment Program Team and program participants on a tour of Harris Farm Markets.

10 programs and services

Finding Safety Project

This past year has been one of transition for the Finding Safety Project, with changing roles as some staff took maternity leave and others stepped up into new roles. While it was expected that the Women NSW DFV Innovation funding, which supported the Finding Safety Project, would come to an end in mid-2022, we were pleased that funding for the Finding Safety Project was extended by the Department of Communities and Justice until June 2023. This allowed the continuation of our unique project supporting women on bridging and temporary visas experiencing sexual and gender-based violence.

In 2022, the SGBV Casework Team supported 49 new clients with a range of complex barriers to finding safety from violence. This increased the number of women receiving some form of ongoing case management to 128. The increase in demand was accompanied by an increase in complexity, with many of the women identifying numerous and interconnected barriers (socio-cultural, family, systemic) to creating safety. In most cases, the women served by the project were in financial stress and had limited means to create financial independence – in some cases this meant they were unable to leave the perpetrator of violence. This was further compounded by visa conditions which often did not include work rights. However, for those



Hava Rezaie, a lawyer and JRS Leadership Program participant, speaks to teachers from Marist Catholic College about her journey from Afghanistan to Australia and the work of the Finding Safety Project at the JRS Women's Space.

women with work rights, many were still unable to work if caring for young children, as they were not eligible for childcare subsidies and could not afford childcare. The JRS SGBV Specialist Caseworkers helped illuminate the strengths and capacities these brave women possess. Led by the women we serve, the Finding Safety Team, Casework & Emergency Relief Team, and the Employment Team have worked together to implement strategies to address these barriers and help women meet their self-identified goals.

The Finding Safety Project also delivered a range of community engagement initiatives over the year, including an International Women's Day Event, Eid/Mother's Day event, Refugee Week activities, numerous information sessions, talks and forums. Creating, maintaining and strengthening partnerships across the community was a priority for the team in 2022 and we look forward to building upon this in the next year.

Volunteers

Volunteers have always been at the heart of what we do and have played an integral part in accompanying people seeking asylum, refugees and migrants in situations of great vulnerability, as well as the running of JRS programs and services for many years. In 2022, 286 JRS volunteers continued to serve with the same amazing spirit, giving more than 7,000 hours of their time and expertise to improve the lives of the people we serve.

In 2022, 286 JRS volunteers continued to serve with the same amazing spirit...

In 2022, JRS volunteers assisted with activities at the JRS Women's Space, employment support, reception, intake support for the Casework Team, Opal Concession Card applications, foodbank packing, dispatch and delivery, and other admin tasks. Volunteers kept the JRS Foodbank alive with calls for donations, the delivery of donations, and assistance with community lunches, and events. Volunteers were pivotal in supporting the activities and

hospitality at the JRS Refugee Week event, where they enjoyed the opportunity to come together and meet with people we serve.

As we emerged from COVID-19 restrictions and the lockdown periods of 2020 and 2021, the JRS Volunteer Program saw an opportunity to look towards a more sustainable approach. This included getting more out of technology, improving processes and making it easier for volunteers and the people we serve to deliver or receive services. New remote roles were created in response to COVID-19, and were further developed in 2022, taking into account lessons learned. As a result, we made improvements on existing processes, inductions, and guidelines, while catering for both remote and face-to-face volunteering opportunities. As we welcomed new volunteers, we said goodbye to others who then offered support in new ways, spreading the message

around volunteering with JRS and helping to make the voice of people we serve heard across their communities.



Fr Quyen Vu SJ, the Provincial of the Australian Jesuits, visited JRS Australia and spent time with our staff and volunteers during National Volunteers Week.



JRS Australia volunteers prepare food for our event commemorating Refugee Week in 2022.

12 advocacy and policy

Advocacy

JRS Australia pursued a number of priorities across 2022 informed by evidence arising from our frontline services and the experiences and expertise of the people we serve and colleagues with lived experience of displacement. JRS Australia took the lead in advocating on various issues, and also worked closely with diaspora networks and other organisations in our sector. Our collective work foreshadowed important victories, including the easing of discriminatory and harmful policies for some people who arrived in Australia by boat. But much work remains.

JRS Australia made a submission on the size and composition of Australia's humanitarian program, arguing for increasing Australia's humanitarian intake to the Government's stated goal of 27,000 people and beyond. The submission also made the case for ending the policy of not allowing refugees in Indonesia who registered with UNHCR after the arbitrary date of 1 July 2014 to apply for resettlement in Australia. The submission argued for the swift transition of TPV and SHEV visas to permanent visas and pathways to swift family reunion. JRS Australia met with tens of members of parliament in the lead-up to and after the federal election in May, lobbying for key reforms and introducing the work and advocacy priorities of JRS. A number of these meetings were jointly convened with the Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA), which JRS co-chairs with Jesuit Social Services, and the Refugee Council of Australia, so as to strengthen our collective impact.

TPV and SHEV

JRS Australia sustained our vigorous advocacy for the transition of temporary protection visas to permanent visas during the many months which passed without an announcement regarding the form or timing of policy reforms. We ensured that ministers, parliamentarians and senior bureaucrats were aware of the grave toll of the protracted uncertainty upon temporary visas holders and their families. We also called for the:

- Provision of expedited pathways for TPV and SHEV holders transitioning to permanent status to sponsor their family after more than a decade of separation;

- Easing of travel restrictions to enable TPV and SHEV visa holders to travel abroad to see their families as they wait for the Government's announcement on permanent visas; and
- Ending of Direction 80, which put family reunion applications from people who arrive in Australia by boat at the bottom of the priority list, adding years of wait for those families.

Our joint advocacy with other organisations in the sector contributed to three major victories:

- Travel restrictions for TPV and SHEV holders were eased, enabling them to travel more easily to be with their families as they waited for their permanent visas.
- Minister Giles announced in November 2022 that he would replace the harmful Ministerial Direction 80 that severely prejudiced family reunion applications from people who arrived by boat.
- More positive announcements were anticipated for TPV and SHEV visa holders.

As JRS Australia celebrated with TPV and SHEV visa holders who will receive permanent visas, we continued to keep a spotlight on the wait that they continue to face to reunite with their families.



JRS Australia Country Director Tamara Domicelj (right) and Assistant Country Director Maeve Brown met Andrew Charlton, Federal Member for Parramatta.

Afghanistan

Building on our 2021 advocacy on Afghanistan, JRS Australia continued to call on the Government to move with urgency to issue more humanitarian visas to at-risk applicants from Afghanistan. Our advocacy was informed by our connections to the Afghan and Hazara diaspora in Australia, as well as those in Afghanistan and its neighbouring countries. Through these connections, we learned that as the Taliban deepened their crackdown on women, minorities, former members of Afghan security forces, and people affiliated with INGOs and the previous government, many fled to Afghanistan's neighbouring countries, where they faced financial difficulties and precarious immigration situations that exposed them to widespread abuse and exploitation. JRS Australia raised these difficulties in our advocacy in Australia and internationally, calling for swifter and fuller responses to protect people at greatest risk.

Family reunion

For many refugees and people seeking asylum, the safety of their families is a paramount concern. But for various reasons, including Australia's policy to deny family reunion for people seeking asylum who arrived

by boat, many families have endured over a decade of separation. JRS anticipated that family reunification would be an important issue for TPV and SHEV visa holders transitioning to permanent visas and started calling for the establishment of expedited family reunion pathways at the outset of the Government's term. Our call was early and often, articulated most prominently in our submission into the management and composition of Australia's Humanitarian Program 2022-23.

Small victories, big impact

Although JRS Australia's advocacy is focused primarily on policy-level change, we sometimes become aware of people in exceptional circumstances who have little support from other sources. In keeping with our mission to walk with the excluded, we take up these cases and advocate for and with the people. One such case was that of an Australian permanent resident whose family had waited for years for their visas to reunite with him. A rule that deprioritised family visas from people who arrived by boat was keeping the family apart. As the family waited, it endured a tragedy in a terrorist attack against Hazara students in Afghanistan. JRS Australia became aware of the family's situation and



JRS Country Director Tamara Domicelj and Head of Policy, Advocacy and Communications Shuja Jamal held a series of meetings with MPs from across the political spectrum, in conjunction with the CEO of the Refugee Council of Australia Paul Power and Deputy CEO Adama Kamara. Among them, pictured, are Zoe Daniel, Federal Member for Goldstein, and Dr Monique Ryan, Federal Member for Kooyong.

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successfully advocated for the issuance of visas for them. The family is now safely in Australia.

Priorities and platforms

Informed by the experiences of our clients and colleagues, JRS Australia also advocated for the following important issues, including with the Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA):

- Ending the cruel policy of detaining refugees and people seeking asylum offshore and granting those medevaced to Australia the option to remain here permanently;
- Ending the harmful policy of revoking study permissions for people medevaced from Nauru and PNG who are over the age of eighteen;
- Resolving the status of thousands of people on bridging visas who are not part of the 'legacy caseload', ending the anguish many experience because of the legal limbo.

Caring for our common home

As an organisation committed to working in areas of the greatest need, JRS is grappling with the current and escalating issue of climate-related displacement through our policy and advocacy work in Australia and in regional and global forums. In 2022, we launched our exploratory work in this area with the help of a high-calibre intern, Bryant King, who helped us develop a draft Policy Platform that outlines our advocacy goals in climate-related displacement. To map current action and discern the way forward, JRS is continuing to consult with experts and organisations, including individuals from highly affected areas in the Pacific.

The Leadership Program welcomed a number of new participants with lived experience of forced displacement to the program in 2022.

Refugee Leadership Program

In 2022, the Leadership Program continued to provide individualised support for refugees, people seeking asylum, and migrants who desire to use their voice and contribute to advocacy activities and strategy.

People with lived experience of forced displacement led, contributed to, or participated in a number of leadership and advocacy opportunities. The activities included public speaking events with schools, churches, and community groups; training, consultation and listening events; civic action initiatives; speaking with decision-makers; and participating and contributing to media stories.

There were 96 leadership and advocacy opportunities with participation from 34 people with lived experience of forced migration. This included Magdalene Konneh, who has been engaged in the Leadership Program since its inception in 2021, was hosted by the JRS Finding Safety Project to complete her 100 hours of placement for her Diploma of Community Services.



Leadership in action: Magdalene Konneh sharing her refugee experience with students.

The Leadership Program welcomed a number of new participants with lived experience of forced displacement to the program in 2022. Two new participants, Din and Helen, engaged in public speaking events with schools, churches, and community groups. Din is a computer scientist from the Phillipines and Helen is an emerging artist from Iraq, who is studying education.



Quote from Din

By participating in the Leadership Program and engaging in advocacy I felt a boost in my confidence. It helped me communicate better and I felt empowered in my faith and goal to encourage and inspire others. The Leadership Program has given me hope to continue to fight in every trial I encounter.



Quote from Helen

The Leadership Program was a new experience for me. I have learned a lot, and I have developed my public speaking skills. I can say I am more confident now. This program gave me an opportunity to reach a larger and different audience, which has been an informative and rewarding experience for me. I have enjoyed being in schools and speaking to children and young people of different ages. It has been interesting to get insight into how children and young people are responding to the refugee issue, I have learned a lot from them. Thanks JRS Australia for this opportunity.

“The Leadership Program has given me hope to continue to fight in every trial I encounter.”

Leadership Program by the Numbers

96 Leadership and advocacy opportunities for our leaders with lived experience

36 The number of school and community presentations by our leaders

25 Instances of individualised support work with refugee leaders, training opportunities, and media engagement by the leaders

13 Action for Afghanistan meetings to urge the Government to support Afghans at risk

2 Protests organised with other Afghan leaders, including those in our Leadership Program

Schools and Community Engagement

In 2022, the JRS Schools and Community Engagement program ran 61 workshops and events, with a total of 7,216 people from schools, parishes and the community participating.

In these workshops, JRS worked with schools to educate students about current issues facing refugees and people seeking asylum, Australian refugee policy, and ways in which they could help. As a result, over 5,000 students took action by running food drives, writing to their MPs, volunteering with JRS and organising fundraising events such as talent shows and discos.



Students work at the JRS Foodbank during their excursion day at JRS Australia.

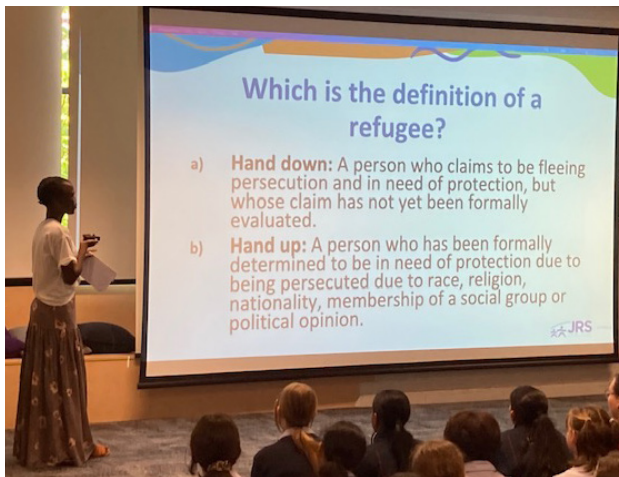
One of the highlights of the year was the formal establishment of the Excursion to JRS Program, which

16 advocacy and policy

allowed students to visit the JRS office in Parramatta, volunteer with the Foodbank program, hear from a speaker with lived experience and meet the JRS team to learn more about our programs. Participants found the program to be highly informative and rewarding, with one student describing it as “eye-opening” and another expressing pride in the “progress we made packing food bags and can now understand the difference it will make in helping people.” The program has been an overwhelming success, with participants returning with their families during school holidays to continue volunteering.

JRS Australia’s community and school work generated \$7,750 in income for our speakers with lived experience, who are paid for their time and for sharing their expertise.

Our partnerships with parishes have had a significant impact on our clients, with events such as the Good Shepherd Parish, which hosted a Sing for Solidarity fundraiser, which raised double their goal to enable a child to be referred from the JRS Women’s Space to attend childcare three days a week fee-free.



JRS Australia’s Schools Engagement Officer Holla David gives a presentation to year 6 students.

JRS also co-hosted a range of events, including Refugee Week celebrations, community conversations at parishes, and the Wentworth Candidate’s Forum in the lead up to the federal election. Attendees have been impacted by hearing JRS speakers with lived experience share their stories and experiences, with one participant noting that they were “always in awe when stories are shared, their resilience and faith is illuminating.”

Quotes from students after Excursion Day to JRS:

- “Learned more about the process behind visas for people seeking asylum in Australia.”
- “Proud of the progress we made today (packing food bags) and can see how this will be helping lots of people.”
- “Learned about refugees and how people are living. That people are living close by but living in different and worse conditions. Today was very eye-opening.”
- “I didn’t know that people didn’t have a right to study. Learned that there is still a long way to go with the treatment of refugees. Can I come back and volunteer again?”
- “My experience was enhanced by the wonderful and supportive team at JRS.”

Quotes from teachers about the presentations:

- “The opportunity for students to hear the stories of refugees with lived experience and the well-organised presentation was great.” - Marist Catholic College North Shore
- “The workshop was excellent and inspiring.” - Religious Education Teacher

“The opportunity for students to hear the stories of refugees with lived experience and the well-organised presentation was great.”



We are immensely grateful for the tremendous support provided by our major partners, donors, allies and companions in mission. Your wonderful generosity enabled us to continue our critical work of accompanying, serving and advocating for and with refugees, people seeking asylum and migrants in situations of vulnerability during 2022. Please receive our heartfelt thanks in abundance.

- Access Disability Services
- Addison Road Community Centre
- Affinity Intercultural Foundation
- Afghan Peace Foundation
- Afghan Women on the Move
- All Saints Catholic College, Liverpool
- All Saints Catholic Parish, Liverpool
- Amnesty International Australia
- Andrew and Renata Kaldor Centre of International Refugee Law, UNSW
- Anglicare
- Anti-Slavery Australia
- Antipodean Family Foundation
- Arts & Cultural Exchange (ACE)
- Asia Pacific Network on Refugees (APNOR)
- Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN)
- Asylum Seekers Centre
- Asylum Seekers Resource Centre
- Australia Post
- Australian Catholic University
- Australian Dental Association - Filling the Gap
- Australian National Committee on Refugee Women (ANCORW)
- Australian Red Cross
- Australian Women against Violence Alliance (AWAVA)
- AXR Recruitment
- Baker & McKenzie
- Baker McKenzie
- Bankstown Senior College
- Bede Polding College, South Windsor
- Bethany Catholic College, Hurstville
- Bethany College
- Bikes for Refugees
- Blacktown Girls High School
- Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group (BMRSG)
- Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project (BASP)
- Brigidine College St Ives
- Brotherhood of St Laurence
- Cages Foundation
- Canterbury-Bankstown City Council
- CareerSeekers
- Carroll & O'Dea
- Cath Leary Social Justice Foundation
- Catherine McAuley College, Westmead
- Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA)
- Catholic Bishops Conference PNG
- Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta
- Catholic Mission
- Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford
- Catholic Parish of Lindfield-Killara
- Catholic Religious Australia (CRA)
- Catholic Social Justice Council
- Catholic Social Services Australia
- Catholic Social Services Victoria
- CathWest Innovation College
- Christ the King Catholic Parish, North Rocks
- City East College
- City East College Community College
- City of Parramatta Council
- City of Sydney Council
- Colin Biggers & Paisley
- Community Corporate
- Community First Steps
- Core Community Services
- Cumberland City Council
- D'Ambra Murphy Lawyers
- Dandelion Support Network
- De La Salle Catholic High School, Cronulla
- Denbigh Philanthropic Fund
- Discerning Leadership Australia
- Domestic Violence NSW
- Domestic Violence Service Management (DVSM)
- Dress for Success
- Dress for Work
- Edmund Rice Centre
- End Child Detention Coalition (ECDC)
- Foodbank NSW/ACT
- Forced Migration Network, University of New South Wales
- Frenchs Forest Catholic Parish
- Freyssinet Australia
- Glenwood Primary School
- Glow Up Careers
- Good Shepherd
- Grandmothers Against Detention of Refugee Children NSW
- Grantham Heights Uniting Church, Seven Hills
- Harris Farm Markets
- Hazara Women of Australia
- Hogan Family Foundation
- Holroyd/Parramatta Mobile Minds
- Holy Name of Mary Catholic Parish, Hunters Hill
- Horn of Africa Relief and Development Agency Inc
- HOST International
- House of Sadaqa
- House of Welcome
- Humanitarian and Development Research Initiative (HADRI)
- Humanslikeus
- Immigration Advice and Rights Centre (IARC)
- Insight Exchange
- Islamic Relief Australia
- Jesuit Asia Pacific Conference (JCAP)
- Jesuit Communications
- Jesuit Education Australia
- Jesuit Mission
- Jesuit Social Services
- JRS Asia Pacific
- JRS International
- JRS USA
- Karabi Community & Development Services
- Knights of the Southern Cross
- KPMG
- La Trobe University
- Legal Aid NSW
- License4Work
- Licenses4Work
- Life Without Barriers
- Limb Family Foundation
- Loreto, Kirribilli
- Loreto, Normanhurst
- Lyone Foundation
- Magnolia Foundation
- Mami Wattti Collections
- Marian Catholic College, Kenthurst
- Marist Catholic College, North Shore
- Marist Catholic College, Penthurst
- Mary's House
- Mater Hospital, North Sydney
- Mercy Catholic College, Chatswood
- Mercy Foundation

- Metro Assist
- Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College, North Sydney
- Mother Teresa Catholic Primary, Westmead
- Multicultural NSW
- Mummies Paying It Forward
- Mums 4 Refugees
- Nangami Peace and Justice Group
- Nappy Collective
- National Zakat Foundation
- Newman College, University of Melbourne
- Nextt - Disability Services Australia
- NSW Department of Communities and Justice - Social Sector Support Fund
- NSW Refugee Health Service
- OneSight
- Our Lady of Dolors Parish, Chatswood
- Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Parish, Baulkham Hills
- Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Parish, Seven Hills
- Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Seven Hills
- Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School, Seven Hills
- Our Lady of Mercy College, Parramatta
- Our Lady of the Way Catholic Parish, Emu Plains
- Our Lady of the Way Catholic Parish, North Sydney
- Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Parish, Greystanes
- OzHarvest
- Parliament on King
- Parramatta Marist High School, Westmead
- Parramatta Mission
- Parramatta Women's Shelter
- PAYCE Foundation
- Planet Wheeler Foundation
- PlateltForward
- Polaron Language Services
- Primo Foods
- Prosper
- Refugee Advice & Casework Service
- Refugee Council of Australia
- Regional Opportunities Australia
- Reloved
- Rentokil
- Richmond Uniting Church
- Rural Australians for Refugees
- Sacred Heart Catholic Parish, Blackheath
- Salvation Army
- Salvation Army - Trafficking and Slavery Safe House
- Santa Sabina College, Strathfield
- Scanlon Foundation
- Settlement Services International
- SEWA Australia
- Share the Dignity
- Sisters of Charity
- Sisters of Charity Foundation
- Sisters of Mercy Parramatta
- Sisters of St John of God
- Sisters of the Good Samaritan Foundation
- Social Justice Around the Bay
- St Aloysius College, North Sydney
- St Aloysius of Gonzaga Catholic Parish, Cronulla
- St Ambrose Catholic Primary School, Toongabbie
- St Andrew's, Marayoung
- St Angela's Primary School, Castle Hill
- St Canice's Catholic Parish, Elizabeth Bay
- St Columba's Catholic Parish, Leichhardt
- St Declan's Catholic Parish, Penshurst
- St Declan's Catholic Primary School, Penshurst
- St Francis Xavier Catholic Parish, Ashbury
- St Ignatius College Riverview
- St Ignatius Parish
- St Joachim's Catholic Parish, Lidcombe
- St John Bosco Catholic Parish, Engadine
- St John Paul II
- St John XXIII Catholic College, Stanhope Gardens
- St Joseph's Catholic Primary, Kingswood
- St Joseph's Catholic College, East Gosford
- St Kevin's Catholic Parish, Eastwood
- St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga
- St Luke's Catholic College, Marsden Park
- St Madeleine Sophie Barat Catholic Parish, Kenthurst
- St Mark's Catholic College, Stanhope Gardens
- St Mary's Catholic Primary School, North Sydney
- St Michael's Fund
- St Monica's Catholic Parish, Richmond
- St Oliver's Catholic Primary School, Harris Park
- St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta
- St Patrick's Catholic Parish, Mortlake
- St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Guildford
- St Pius X College, Chatswood
- St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Parish, Springwood
- St Ursula's College, Kingsgrove
- St Vincent de Paul Society
- St Vincent's Catholic Parish, Ashfield
- St Vincent's Catholic Primary School, Ashfield
- STARTTS
- Stella Maris College, Manly
- Sydney Alliance
- Sydney Catholic Early Childhood Services
- SydWest Multicultural Services
- TAFE NSW
- TalentRise
- The Australian Province of the Society of Jesus
- The Cardoner Project
- The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney
- The Catholic Diocese of Parramatta
- The Executive Coach
- The Generous and the Grateful
- The Institute Sisters of Mercy Australia and PNG
- The Reconnect Project
- The Social Outfit
- Thread Together
- Toastmasters
- TQN Personnel
- Tzu Chi Foundation
- Uniting Church of Australia
- Uniting Early Learning and Childcare
- University of Sydney Refugee Language Program
- UNSW
- UpSkill Driving School
- Vigil Training
- VivCourt
- Watson Family Foundation
- Western Sydney Local Health District (WSLHD)
- Western Sydney University
- Westpac
- Women in Migration Network
- Women NSW
- Women NSW – Domestic and Family Violence Innovation Fund
- Woolworths
- Xavier Social Justice Network

Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 31 December 2022

		\$
Revenue		2,575,568
Donations	595,717	
Grants	1,920,704	
Other income	59,147	
Expenses		2,627,453
Staffing expenses	772,046	
Administrative & fundraising expenses	66,438	
Depreciation	9,726	
Travel expenses	17,161	
Direct projects costs	272,248	
Grant expenses	1,489,834	
Results from operating activities		-51,885
Financial income		25,821
Financial costs		-2,053
Net financial income		23,768
Deficit for the period		-28,117
Other comprehensive income		-
Total comprehensive deficit		-28,117

