

What we do at Refugee Legal

As Australia's largest provider of free legal assistance to asylum seekers, refugees and disadvantaged migrants, we continue to be at the forefront of defending their rights and working for change.

There's never been a greater time of need for people seeking protection in Australia.

The demand on our services has been unprecedented. In the face of this extraordinary challenge — with its arbitrary deadlines and systemic injustices — we've undertaken a major scale-up of frontline services to provide critical legal help to thousands in need.

We simply could not have done it without the collaboration of over 550 volunteers, more than a dozen leading pro bono corporate law firms, Victoria Legal Aid, and our very generous philanthropic funders and individual donors.

Together, we have made the biggest possible impact, changing the course of many people's lives for the better. At year's end, the demand for our vital legal assistance remains at critical levels.

We **advise** and **assist** people seeking asylum, refugees and disadvantaged migrants.

We **educate** within our community to raise awareness, develop understanding, inspire ideas and collaborations, and build action for change.

We **advocate** at local, national and international levels, in the media, in public and private forums, and with key partners for policies which are fair, just, humane and decent.



Fast Facts for 2016-17

Total client assistance

14,285

Telephone advice

5,411

Fast track advice & assistance

3,915

People represented

2,651

Face-to-face advice

2,308



Where our work makes its impact

Changing lives

The lives of thousands of people were changed over the past 12 months by our staff and volunteers doing what they do best — providing expert legal help. The upshot: so many people have been granted protection, freed from detention, reunited with family, or have had their residency restored.

Emergency response

With Gandel Philanthropy and then the Sidney Myer Fund matching donations dollar for dollar, we engaged in a major scale-up of resources to run more special TPV clinics to help many more people to apply for protection visas before the deadline. This meant no one in need was turned away. *The Saturday Paper*, Studio Round and two of our Ambassadors, First Dog on the Moon and Tom Ballard, among others, provided crucial support for our urgent fundraising campaigns.

Innovative partnerships

Over a dozen corporate law firms so far have joined with us to provide free emergency legal assistance to thousands of people seeking asylum under the Fast Track process to ensure they get a fair go before the law. This innovative collaboration — connecting and harnessing legal expertise — has been recognised by the London *Financial Times* Legal Innovation Awards and the Law Institute of Victoria Awards.

A leading voice

Executive Director David Manne presented at high-level fora, including the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Protection Challenges Dialogue in Geneva, while being a regular contributor to national and international media coverage of issues affecting refugees and migrants. We also played a central role in advocating for change in public, policy-making and political arenas, including numerous Senate Inquiry submissions.

Strategic litigation

Refugee Legal, in partnership with other leading legal advocates, has again had success in the High Court in ensuring refugees' rights are recognised, including taking action to prevent a number of people from being returned to Nauru or Manus. Most recently, one of our clients was released from indefinite detention after more than four years. We now have achieved successes for clients in ten out of ten High Court challenges.

"We're going to do everything humanly possible to scale up our emergency help to meet the need. These people deserve a fair go before the law, not an arbitrary deadline which if missed could see them sent back to places of danger like Afghanistan, Iraq or Syria."

— David Manne, Executive Director
The Age, May 21, 2017

Yes, I will help give people a fair go before the law!

Any donation to Refugee Legal goes directly to providing free legal assistance to people otherwise facing removal to serious harm or even death.

Payment details:

Amount of gift:

Total payment today: \$ _____

Your payment options:

1. Online via www.refugeelegal.org.au
2. Via EFT BSB: 013-275
Account No: 3089 3854 8
3. Via mail — send this completed form to:
Donations, Refugee Legal,
PO Box 1139, Collingwood VIC 3066
and pay by:
 Cheque
 Credit card
Name on Card: _____
Card No: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____
Expiry date : ___ / ___
Signature: _____
4. Over the phone – call Refugee Legal on (03) 9413 0124

Want to get more involved?

- Please add me to your e-news list
Best email address: _____
- Please call me about ways to fundraise in my community for Refugee Legal
Best phone number: _____
- Please send me information on leaving a bequest to Refugee Legal in my will



We thank you for your generous support!

Patrons of Refugee Legal



Her Excellency the Honourable Linda Dessau AM, Governor of Victoria (Patron in Chief)



Emeritus Professor Gillian Triggs



Professor Hilary Charlesworth



The Honourable Michael Kirby AC CMG

Awards

Financial Times Asia-Pacific Innovative Lawyers 2017
Highly Commended
(In partnership with Lander & Rogers)

13th Victorian Legal Awards
Winner Access to Justice Awards

Best Lawyers
Immigration Lawyer Category
David Manne, Refugee Legal Executive Director



Thank you to our generous supporters

As a non-profit organisation, Refugee Legal relies on the generous support of the community. We are grateful to all our supporters and acknowledge here the leadership, gifts and support of our major partners who make our work possible.

Refugee Legal supporters



Refugee Legal pro bono partners



Thanks also to our major supporters: Peter and Ruth McMullin, Noel & Carmel O'Brien Family Foundation, Bruce McMullin Foundation, Lettisiar Foundation, Jack and Hedy Brent Foundation, Shulu Foundation, Sunning Hill Fund, Antipodean Family Foundation, The Pip and Dick Smith Foundation, Rotary Club of Footscray, Manningham Uniting Church, Remero, Nordia Foundation, Refugee Advocacy Network, Common Rule, Living Faith Church, Leo & Mina Fink Fund, Melbourne University Law Students' Society, Methodist Ladies' College, Readings, C R Brad Foundation, Caroline Durré Foundation and a number of major donors who prefer to remain anonymous.

Refugees
Asylum seekers
Disadvantaged migrants

Refugee Legal:
Defending the rights
of refugees.