

STRENGTH AND KINDNESS

Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project (BASP)



54 Beaconsfield Pde, Albert Park 3206
Ph: 96962107; barthur@basp.org.au
Website: www.BASP.org.au

*I was a stranger and you made
me welcome ...*

Newsletter 111 July 2023

The Project aims to:

- * provide hospitality and practical support for people seeking asylum
- * actively network with like-minded individuals and groups who are working for justice for asylum seekers
- * promote advocacy for the rights of asylum seekers
- * raise awareness of asylum seeker issues and concerns through a range of activities

Australia seems to be facing many defining areas of our identity (or the way we like to think of ourselves). We probably see ourselves as humane and living by the often quoted ‘giving everyone a fair go’. However, when viewed through this prism of looking after the most vulnerable, we fall a long way short of the ideal. To name but a few of those who have been cruelly treated: indigenous people, the very materially poor, those who are mentally ill, women facing domestic violence and people seeking asylum.

In fact, our society, and often our government, is very fractured about issues relating to all these groups of people. Two of these came into sharp focus this month – ironically a day apart.

Both immoral, one legal and the other illegal, both immoral

On Thursday 6th July in a case brought by Iranian Kurdish refugee Mostafa Azimitabar (“Moz”), the Federal Court ruled that while hotel detention is inhumane (immoral), it is still legal.

On the 7th July the Royal commission into the Robodebt were made public and the scheme was judged to be illegal (and immoral).

The Federal Court decision was specifically about places of immigration detention. However, that is but the tip of the iceberg in terms of the overall treatment of asylum seekers in Australia over the past thirty years. Some of the things that have happened to these folk make us wonder what Australia has become.

While the significance of the Robodebt decision is being scrutinized by thousands of journalists in hundreds of thousands of words (rightly so), there was relatively small media attention given to the issue of the detention of people seeking asylum in this country.

Justice Bernard Murphy in delivering his verdict on the ‘Moz’ case was scathing in his public comments about the inhumanity of keeping people locked up in such conditions for so long. BASP would claim this is only the tip of the iceberg in terms of ongoing cruelty and harshness towards asylum seekers who have suffered and are suffering in so many ways.

This is an area of state cruelty—inflicted on innocent people by different governments in Australia. It is incumbent on all of us to ensure, in the end, justice is done and seen to be done.

**I GET MOST
OF MY
EXERCISE
THESE DAYS
FROM SHAKING
MY HEAD IN
DISBELIEF.**

Donations to the Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project are tax deductible

The ongoing trauma for many

Finally there are no more people seeking asylum on Nauru

On 24th June 2023, after eleven years, all remaining refugees and people seeking asylum on Nauru have been evacuated. While that is good news (at last), it is important to keep trying to get legislation outlawing off-shore detention. If a possibility of using places like Nauru exist, some Government in the future is sure to use it. Moreover those brought to Australia are subject to the same restricted legal status and have been told they can never permanently stay in Australia. The shameful use of money to keep Nauru open is \$486m this year and an ongoing contract to a private US firm of \$350m a year.

PNG still has nearly 80 men in a parlous situation. The Australian government still pays the PNG Government to keep them there but maintains they have no responsibility for these men. BASP advocates that Australia evacuates all those remaining in PNG and offers them a permanent pathway for the future. The Australian government is refusing to say how much it is paying to Papua New Guinea in a secret agreement to hold these men in Port Moresby. Recently New Zealand accepted some of these men—this is clearly a compassionate response which should shame Australia.

These people seeking asylum came by boat because there were no alternative safe pathways. They are still trapped in PNG after 10 years of trauma. The Australian Government has abandoned these people.

Zaki Haidari, campaigner for Amnesty International, says:

“Anthony Albanese and the Labor party won government promising a new era of fairness and basic dignity for refugees and asylum seekers, but on the 10 year anniversary of Labor’s cruel offshore detention and resettlement regime, too little has changed.”

What is happening to the 19,000 people on temporary visas who were told in February that they were eligible for a Permanent Visa?

They had to apply for a Resolution of Status (RoS) Visa—which some have now been granted and the others are waiting for.

- Around 1,000 people nationally are yet to apply.
- Around 3,000—4,000 RoS Visas have been granted.
- The processing of Visas is being held up by the Department of Home Affairs seeking character checks. Some people are needing to go through some sort of additional application process. Since they have done all this before, this seems unnecessary.

For most a RoS Visa means an application for Family Reunion is possible

The Migration Act has not been changed in that Family Reunion will still not be permitted by the Government if people arrived in Australia by boat. However, people with a RoS Visa can apply for a Partner Visa and for dependent children (aged under 23 years of age) to come to Australia.

Such Visa grants have no time line. So it will be another time of uncertainty and waiting.



Discussion Session

2pm –3.30pm

Wednesday, August 30th

At 54 Beaconsfield Pde Albert Park

How have Immigration Ministers and the Public Service interacted to enact Cruel Care to people seeking protection in Australia?

*An opportunity to hear from Dr Jordana Silverstein
Senior Research Fellow*

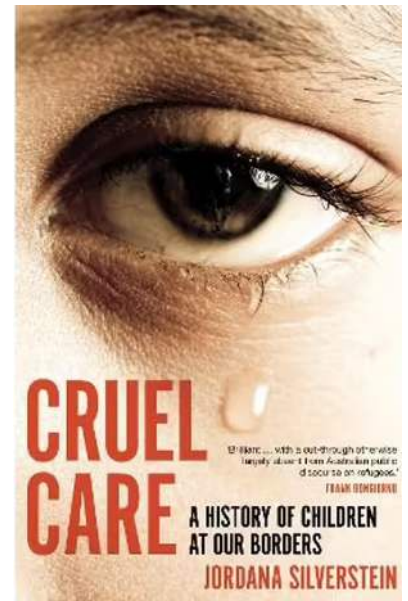
*Peter McMullin Centre on Statelessness | Melbourne
Law School*

Jordana is the author of Cruel Care

Cruel Care asks why Australia pursues such unforgiving immigration policies, and how successive Australian governments can say that the cruel acts they perpetrate are a form of care.

Jordana will address the way various decision makers conspired to have such cruel policies and practices enacted.

We will also have a BASP update.



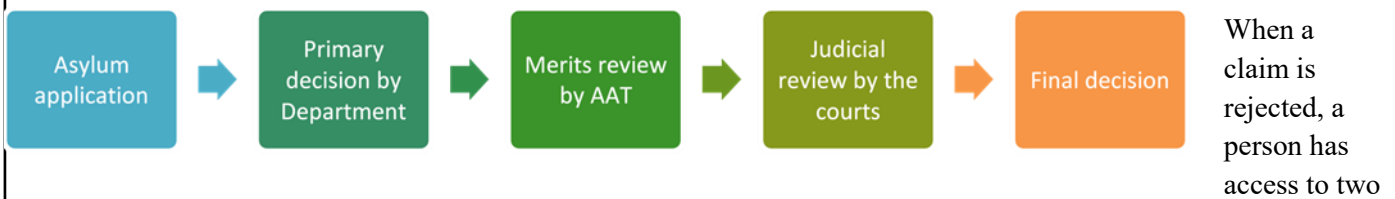
On the 28th May a group from St Joseph's Malvern and Cabrini Hospital held a soiree in St Josephs church. It was a very successful fund raising event for BASP. Maree Metcalfe was one of the organisers of the event. Maree has supported BASP in many and varied ways over many years.

Sadly Maree died very unexpectedly last week. We extend our sincere sympathy to her husband Bernard and their families. The funeral will be at Holy Cross, Templestowe on Saturday, 10.30am 29th July and Livestreamed <https://www.vividstream.com.au/live/maree-metcalfe>



What Happens to people seeking protection when they fail?

There are many reasons why a person's claim for asylum might not satisfy the criteria in the Migration Act to be given a Protection Visa. In many such instances, people whose case has been rejected have other valid reasons for remaining in Australia. In some cases, they have just been very badly treated by decision makers.



appeal bodies. The first is a merits review (AAT or IAA or RRT). The second is a judicial review (Federal Court). Technically once the appeals process has been exhausted, the person is required to leave Australia. For many in this situation, the countries asylum seekers come from will not accept them back. Eg Iraq, Iran, Eritrea and Sudan so they remain here but in a precarious position.

A special request to the Minister is not part of this process but people can make such a request.

How many?

As at December 2022, a total of 70,564 failed asylum seekers remained in Australia. Of them, 38,919 were awaiting an appeal decision at AAT, while others (the number of which is unspecified) were awaiting a judicial review. Some (also an unspecified number) were granted bridging visas, typically on the basis that they are required to depart Australia as soon as possible.

The number of failed asylum seekers remaining in Australia has steadily increased, as has the backlog in hearing their appeals.

Non-refoulement safeguards

According to the principle of *non-refoulement*, countries are prohibited from returning a refugee or asylum-seeker to places where there is a risk that his or her life or freedom would be seriously threatened. While Australia is bound by *non-refoulement* obligations under international law, our domestic law allows for *non-refoulement* to be ignored where the non-citizen is in detention.

Refugees sailing from Sri Lanka to Australian waters this year are now subject to “refoulement” — being returned to their country of persecution.

Practicalities

In addition to legal and human rights obligations, there are practical challenges to deporting a failed asylum seeker. These include cooperation with the country to which they are being returned, travel documents, identity and safety concerns, statelessness and medical considerations if a person is deemed medically unfit for travel.

The person being removed must have a valid passport/travel document and there are often many difficulties in obtaining one of these from their country of origin. If a person is stateless, obviously, there is nowhere for them to go.

So what should Australia do?

- *forcible removal of failed asylum seekers should be used as a last resort.*
- *timely processing is critical.*
- *immigration detention periods can be shortened.*
- *Australia would benefit from stronger international cooperation, including readmission agreements with countries of origin.*

Of the more than 3000 refugees sent to offshore detention when former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd announced on July 19, 2013, that “asylum seekers who come here by boat without a visa will never be settled in Australia”, more than 1200 are still without a place to call home. Many of these asylum seekers left in limbo are victims of Australia's foreign policy failures in Iraq, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka. Most of these people are recognised by UNHCR to be refugees and are owed protection.

A family of four from Iran (mother and father with a twin daughter and son in their early 20's) were sent to Nauru very soon after Rudd's announcement. Due to severe health issues the young daughter and her mother were sent to a Melbourne detention centre and, subsequently moved into Community Detention. After some years the father and son—both very ill and traumatized by then, were also sent to Melbourne. They have been in Community Detention ever since—with no visa and no hope for any ongoing visa to stay in Australia.



A young woman from Ethiopia came by boat in the same time frame. She spent time on Nauru, underwent awful trauma, came to Australia and spent time in a detention centre, was released and then married and has a young daughter. She still has no permanence here. Her husband does not want to leave a job, friends and other family in Australia. Her only hope for a secure future is to leave her husband and apply for another country.

Twins (part of a family of six) arrived in Australia in 2013—one ended up on Nauru and the other in detention in Australia. Currently the one who did not go to Nauru has a RoS Visa and presumably will get a Permant Visa—the other is in the ‘You will never settle in Australia’ category.

Change is desperately needed so that people like these can replead their case for protection - to get a fair go before the law. We need a process that is straightforward, affordable and fair.

A staff member in the Minister for Home Affairs office said to an advocate recently—It can't be changed—it's in the Act. She must know the reality of Acts of Parliament are made, unmade, amended—this is the job of Parliament!

These are stories that can be repeated many times over. **Ten years too long is putting it mildly!**

Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS) is the program that supports vulnerable migrants who are waiting for the government's decision on a visa application, including people seeking asylum. SRSS is a program that makes us at BASP very exasperated.

- Many really vulnerable people don't get it—are told they don't qualify.
- The number of people receiving SRSS payment decreased from 29,000 6 years ago to just 1500 now. It would be impossible to argue that the need has decreased at all—let alone by this much.
- SRSS is pegged at a maximum of 89% of jobseeker or family assistance benefits—manifestly not enough to live on and well below the poverty line.
- It does not seem to always to go to the most vulnerable
- We believe most of the people supported by BASP should be eligible for SRSS and virtually none are.

Jason Clare, Minister for Education said at a Press Club a few days ago:

I don't want us to forever be a country where your chances in life hinge on who your parents are, where you live or the colour of your skin. This is a chance to change that. At least to start to change that.

Minister, your Government will need to address the destitution of many asylum seekers to make this true.

The extraordinary story of Ned Kelly

The asylum seeker, who changed his name to Ned Kelly as an act of dissidence, has been in immigration detention since fleeing Iran in 2013. Ned has been detained indefinitely both onshore and offshore in Nauru.

His case was taken to the high court by the Human Rights Law Centre in May of this year. The appeal was to ascertain whether the High Court could rule for a person to live in the Australian community rather than a detention centre while awaiting the outcome of permanent protection. The outcome of this appeal could have a significant and positive impact for hundreds of people in indefinite detention, as Ned's case challenges detention being indefinite. We are waiting for a verdict with anticipation.



Ned Kelly Emeralds has been detained for 10 years.

I have been kept in a cage and denied any possibility of release for nearly ten years. I hope that my case shows the powers that Ministers have over people's lives", Ned Kelly Emeralds ([The Human Rights Law Centre](#))

Human lives are precious—no matter where, when or who



In the second half of June, the world media were completely taken up with the story of a five-person crew on a submersible named Titan, that disappeared hoping to explore the wreck of the Titanic.

Within the same time frame, a boat carrying up to 750 people, including children, capsized off the coast of Greece on 14th June. The majority of people on board were from Pakistan,

Egypt and Syria. Most perished. There was relatively little media coverage.



All of this is in the context of soaring numbers of people fleeing violence and persecution globally – now an unprecedented 110 million.

The House Coordinators at Moongala sent the following message:

Our lovely Rosy kindly makes jams and chutneys from fruit etc that she is able to mostly receive free – we are always asking people for their surplus from their trees! We sell each jar for \$4 and all proceeds are all given to BASP, who we feel very strongly about supporting.



She also makes gorgeous tea towels with crocheted hangers on them and we sell these for \$8 and half goes to BASP and half is returned to Rosy so she can buy her lovely tea towels and wool should she need it. And so far we have made \$500 for you! We are quite delighted with her efforts, she is such a kind and caring person, always looking for ways she can support the community.

What a beautiful community—spreading warmth and love.

A reflection

It was a usual morning at the BASP office. A father we had not seen before. He tells me his story— his application for refugee status has been rejected—he has no income, two small children; he is carrying a chemist bag with essential medicines for himself, he owes two months rent and utility bills. We agree to pay the outstanding rent and bills and give him items from the pantry (wondering what will happen next month).

An elderly man we know—desperate to get a job—wants someone to listen I suspect because his grown up children are blaming him for the situation they are all in. He is also grateful for the pantry items and some Emergency Relief money.

Then it is time to leave to speak to some staff at a school. A man is waiting—again a new person. He is silently weeping as I start to explain I will ring him later but can't stay right now. I can see he doesn't believe I will ring him back so I stop to get the bare bones of his story. He also owes two months rent, has two children, tells me he will get a job soon because when he was working he was a very good employee. He doesn't have a visa or work rights but his lawyer has tried to give him hope by saying the Government may change the law for people like him. (He escaped from northern Sri Lanka during the civil war). I am conscious that BASP has already paid out a few thousand dollars before 10am and I need to think if we can pay this rent etc as well.

I drive to the place where I am to speak to a group—haunted by the fear in the last man's eyes—and his whispered "Please help me" ringing in my head. I am sure he is saying— 'I spent money on petrol to get here and I think I won't hear back.' Later in the day we paid the rent and a week later I have a phone call—Thanks for the help. Do you know any places that could give me a job as a driver (or any other job?) Noone should have to live with this stress.

Maybe the afternoon would be quieter. A Tamil woman from Pakenham has left a message to call. We know the lady—she has been in to get help a few times but she managed to get a job in aged care so we had not seen her for a while. She is a single parent with two children. She has just lost her visa—having been rejected by the Federal Court and by the Minister of Immigration. Her place of employment then looked up VEVO (an online site that gives the visa status of employees) and then told her they could not continue to employ her.

One of the last men from Nauru came to say he had come down from Brisbane to live with his friend. Unfortunately his friend is in a BASP house and there is no spare room there. This gets sorted out a bit when one of the long term asylum seekers' advocates offers to have him stay at her house for a while. His case worker also clarified that his service provider has funding to give him accommodation for a couple of months. That gives us breathing space!

A man who runs an aged care facility brings in some pantry items. He offers to get a letter writing group together and we agree to help facilitate this. The day goes on

- Brigid

Jobs

One of the biggest needs is getting people jobs. We hear that there is an endless number of jobs. It does not seem so for most asylum seekers who don't have any employment history or contacts.

If you could help in any way please let us know.





Creative networking

The Strathmore conference of St Vincent de Paul has been supporting a family with rent for several years and able to continue to do so. However, the family's rental was being sold and neither the family nor



Vinnies were able to lease another property- due to no income and policy respectively. They contacted BASP for ideas and we agreed to lease the house in BASP's name after which Vinnies would cover the costs. The agents- Stockdale and Leggo Glenroy who help BASP whenever feasible were in agreement with this plan and all has proceeded to keep this family housed.



Through a BASP supporter, we received a call from a city hotel which was refurbishing its rooms. They were replacing wardrobes, bedsides, lamps, blankets - a few of which BASP could collect and store but by no means all. What could not be given away was to go to landfill.

BASP was able to alert other organisations needing such items to their availability and some of it at least was able to be recycled. Thanks to Pullman – ASRC, Welcome Centre, Bapcare all got some blankets. As well, this may lead to possible jobs in housekeeping.

BASP was contacted by a firm of migration lawyers asking us to hurry the government granting benefits to a family facing eviction. While BASP has many skills, hurrying the government isn't one of them! However, we were able to offer payment of one month's rent while Life Without Barriers sought to pursue their application for SRSS.

This brought a ray of sunshine

In June a young asylum seeker arrived with bags of newly purchased groceries for others. BASP had assisted him in 2017 when he was in need and he had not forgotten.

He still has no visa determination, waiting like so many others, but he is employed as a support worker, is helping older frail people and just wanted to give something back.

Sometimes things work out

One Monday morning a young woman and her delightful small toddler arrived at Albert Park seeking housing. Another organisation, unable to house them, had sent them in a taxi. She is a victim of domestic violence, has an intervention order in place and could no longer stay with a relative who had housed her in the short term. BASP was able to provide a room in a Brigidine house with single women - not an ideal option for a toddler but a roof over their heads. Fortunately, Bapcare was advertising a one bedroom unit for someone seeking asylum and we applied on this woman's behalf. She was successful and between the two organisations, the unit was furnished and ready for the two to move in and start afresh.



Pictured opposite is Salah. He was only a minor when we met him many years ago. Recently he was driving past our office in Albert Park in an Aldi truck—his work. He called in and it was wonderful to find out he is now a citizen and very much a settled person in Australia.



Everybody loves grandmothers. This venerable group will surely show why!!

Brigid and Ged from BASP visited Kilsyth and enjoyed the hospitality of the Grandmothers. This Group supports BASP by fundraising efforts.



Feedback from students after our last discussion afternoon

From Star of the Sea College: Last week 3 members of our Justice Leadership team attended a meeting at BASP. (Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project)! “ Today was really insightful. I found that listening to peoples actual stories was much more engaging and truly inspiring than just learning about it at school. I felt as if the story was more relevant to me and I could feel sympathy for these people and their struggles and hardships they face, purely for being refugees. It was truely eye opening to see how the Australian Government do not do anything to support these people, and in one particular ladies story, they did everything to make perusing her dreams impossible.”

“We heard from 5 asylum seekers who each had really unique stories- one was from Iran, one from Ethiopia and others from Sri Lanka. I found it super interesting and powerful to hear about how they had each been treated by Australia’s government in terms of visas, a lack of financial support and being granted or not being granted the right to work. What really disappointed me was that two of the asylum seekers are actually looking to go to Canada, because of the opportunities that the government there would provide them.“



Thank you to Zoe, Julia and Camilla for representing Star. #BASP #RefugeeWeek

Students from Kilbreda College also attended the session.



Saltbush Balnarring provides a welcome break to many people who are not in a position to arrange a holiday or get away for themselves. Like BASP, it is one of the Kildare Ministries’ Community Works and it generously makes a cottage or 2 available for people seeking asylum when it can. Two families have been able to take up this offer in the July school holiday period, On arrival, we received a text from the mother in one of these families “ *Dear BASP, I have arrived at our holiday cottage. It is really beautiful. The girls are really happy and excited to be here. Thank you so much from our whole family.*

And a message from the other family who also had a holiday at Saltbush: *Thank you for giving us this opportunity. We enjoyed this school holiday a lot..*





A BASP supporter contacted us with two tickets to Mary Poppins which she could no longer use. We offered it to a single mother and her son. The son declined so rather than miss out, she asked a friend to go with her. She was absolutely delighted by the show, so appreciative of the opportunity and said her son seemed rather sorry he had not gone!



Canada beckons

In early May, we received a phone message from a man formerly detained on Manus and the Park hotel, thanking BASP effusively for the support it had offered. He said that without it, he would have been on the street. He had applied for Canada some time ago and that morning it was confirmed he was to fly out that night. At last, the opportunity to start a new life with some certainty. Mosaic, the group organising people moving to Canada will meet him on arrival in Toronto and help him settle. BASP has housed him since his release and provided some financial support until he found work and again when he was off work for leg surgery. His 12 months in Melbourne and regaining some independence will hold him in good stead in his new home and country. Our loss!

Another of the Medevac cohort, detained on Nauru for years and then hotel detention also has his date for Canada- mid August. Tujinth shared some of his story at our Discussion afternoon during Refugee Week. Unfortunately his good friend(they knew each other in Sri Lanka, have shared time both in Nauru and on-shore detention and more latterly lived in BASP supported housing) was rejected for Canada.

Elnaz also spoke at our last discussion afternoon. She is a remarkable woman who did Year 12 when the family first came to Australia and completed her PhD this year. Her area of expertise is immunology. The ongoing challenge to get any kind of work to support herself and her elderly parents with whom she lives was touching.

A couple of days after the day in June, Elnaz was offered a job in the clinical trialing as part of the research she had been involved with as part of her PhD.

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Volunteers

Sue and Phoebe have visited a family for many years, becoming part of their family – and vice versa. They have arranged for the family to explain their case to their local MP- Peter Khalil. They also came to the rescue recently when the mother was laid low with flu and the son was injured at school. Hana from the BASP office headed to the school and took him to hospital (where he needed surgery and a resetting of a broken bone). Phoebe relieved Hana and brought food for Day 1, with Sue following through the next day. The mother was feeling totally overwhelmed but having these practical matters taken over with no fanfare, was such truly wonderful acts of kindness.

Another volunteer, Kaitlyn has also been visiting a family for many years, providing friendship as well as advocating for them. The family has no income, no work rights and live rent free in a BASP house. When their food bank from another organisation ceased and they'd received no response from a 3rd organisation, she advocated hard, getting the food bank restored and their application for help actioned.

The work of volunteers is SO important to BASP and its support of the vulnerable group with whom we work. Many thanks to all of you.

Brigidine Relief Fund

Sometimes things just go on and the same people do the same good work and it comes to be taken for granted. The donors and administrators of the Brigidine Relief Fund are a bit like that. BASP gets money for books and uniforms and other educational needs from this fund. Staff from Kildare Ministries schools are the main donors to this fund. Should anyone want to donate the bank details are: Bsb: 083-004; Account number: 566976440



Good news of Permanent Visas but it all takes so long

Last month, we had a call from a single mother of 4 whom BASP has helped since late 2015- rent, emergency relief, and fortnightly food delivery. Home Affairs had phoned to tell her she had a permanent visa. She said she was in tears and her heart was racing and the official said he'd call later when she calmed down- which he did. At last this woman can have some certainty in her life, does not have to beg for help and can start thinking of the future. She has been greatly assisted by Anne, a BASP volunteer who has supported her through some tough times and has chased the bureaucracy on her behalf, seeking answers.

The Aspendale parish has a very active JAG group. They have been very supportive of BASP for many years. Recently they called to tell us about another family who had received their permanent visa. The JAG group have run annual picnics for asylum seekers for about 10 years and they met this family at one of the earliest picnics. They have become friends while the family have waited 10 years for this outcome.

Cars often increase employability significantly

BASP has had two cars donated in recent times- both with perfect timing. One was given to a man who had been sleeping in his car and had sought some short term housing while he re-established himself after a marriage breakdown. We found a room, his old car died and with the donated one from BASP, he was able to take up a job offer made to BASP from a supporter. He works in a laundry, is delighted by the new skills he is learning and will soon be ready to find a room on his own.

The other car will also assist its new owner secure work as many jobs start earlier than public transport can get them there. This is still a work in progress but it increases the man's chances of employment significantly.

For several years the LCM Sisters have given a scholarship through BASP to a young asylum seeker student who would not otherwise be able to study. Currently Abdul is being helped.

Abdul has completed and passed the 3 subjects he did in semester one - Working with Forced Migrants; Diversity; Working legally and ethically.

Next semester he starts in early July and he will do: a Casework cluster which includes

- Develop, facilitate and review all aspects of case management; assess existing needs.
- Recognise and respond to domestic and family violence.
- Community development cluster.
- Work with people with mental illness.

This is at RMIT at Certificate level and if successful in semester 2, he can move on to Diploma and then Bachelor.

He was full of thanks to the Sisters for their support and blessings. He has continued his part time job during this time to help the family which remains poor and struggling.



Schools are very generous in keeping our pantry stocked. It would be good if we could capture some looks of relief when people come to pick out things to take with them. These bags filled our tables and were from Kilbreda College, Mentone and Sacred Heart Primary School in Kew.



We are grateful for any of the following food (or vouchers to buy food and household necessities).



We currently have enough tinned food except for cans of fruit. Tinned soup does not seem to be taken.

The following are still very much appreciated:

1 kg Sugar, oil (olive and vegetable) , salt, pepper, tea, coffee

Herbs and spices

Blocks or individual wrapped cheese.

Eggs are really appreciated (and some egg cartons to put eggs that come in larger quantities.) .

1 litre Long life milk, **honey is a most appreciated food**, noodles, tuna, 1 kg basmati rice, dates, jam (especially any red jam)

Gladwrap, tinfoil,

Sweet and Savoury Biscuits, Snacks for school lunches (even when home!),

Spices: coriander, cinnamon, ginger,

Shampoo, Shaving Cream and shavers, Toothpaste and toothbrushes. Soap, deodorants

Garbage bags and bin liners (small and large)



We seemingly never have enough washing powder, dish washing detergents and household cleaning products.

For anyone wishing to make a donation, the Project Bank details are: Brigidine Asylum Seekers Trust Account: bsb: 083-004; a/c: 56-924-6603; NAB.

Please put your name on the entry and please email us at contact@basp.org.au after making a donation so we can send you a tax deductible receipt. We will send a newsletter but feel free to tell us that you don't want one.



To All



Thanks so much to all who donated to BASP in June—obviously at the end of the financial year. We believe we have sent receipts to everyone although occasionally we can't find enough details to get back to people who have sent us money. Please let us know if this is true for you.

We do keep being amazed at the generosity of so many. This is the only thing that enables us to give so much practical help. The assistance is not just around the edges but keeping a roof over people's heads and food on the table. We are like modern Shylocks counting the money and seeing how far it will stretch! And without wanting to be self-congratulatory we think we are very good at that!

We appreciate the messages of good will that often accompany the gifts of money. Your warmth and the kindness you offer to those seeking refuge is palpable.

Brigid Arthur

Libby Saunders

(BASP Coordinators)