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FOSTERING  
HUMANITY,  
HOPE  
& DIGNITY  
2019 ANNUAL REPORT



**HOST**  
INTERNATIONAL  
FOSTERING HUMANITY, HOPE & DIGNITY

**HOST International Ltd**

ABN: 53 616 244 332

**Acknowledgment of Country:** We acknowledge the traditional owners of country where we work and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to Elders of past, present and emerging and recognise their cultural wisdom.



**HOST**  
INTERNATIONAL  
FOSTERING HUMANITY, HOPE & DIGNITY



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## About us

There are almost **80 million** displaced people globally and just over **100,000 resettlement places** annually (UNHCR 2020). **75% of the world's refugees** live outside of refugee camps in urban communities without adequate supports and often without legal status.

HOST International is responding to this global challenge by focusing on strategies that promote individual wellbeing, community capacity and structural change in refugee protection.



Rather than relying on humanitarian service delivery and welfare, we enable displaced people, and the communities they live in, to develop and implement their own practical solutions to the challenges they face.



In addition, we amplify the voices of displaced communities, through research and advocacy that influences policies and practices globally.



### MESSAGE FROM THE

## Chairperson

HOST was established to create better lives for people affected by displacement by supporting them with strong, effective programs that build human relationships, hope and dignity.

The Board is proud of investments made in activities that have achieved this vision - from liberating families from detention in Thailand to supporting successful, sustainable integration for newcomers in Adelaide, Australia.

2019 has been a year of transition and consolidation for HOST as we exited our founding contract to provide support services to refugees in Nauru and sought to consolidate our expanded operations across the Asia Pacific. 2019 saw our focus shift in Asia toward more direct assistance for urban refugees and broadening our partner base.

Following a strong first two and half years of operations including substantial equity and sound evidence of client and community outcomes, the Board elected to develop a new organisational strategic plan to recognise the changing operational footprint of HOST and build on initial successes.

The new strategic plan for the period July 2019 to June 2022, will focus on increasing awareness of our unique service offerings, and sustainably delivering positive outcomes to more people, particularly refugees and host communities in the Asia Pacific region.

Our strong standards of practice and integrity when working across international borders were recognised in our successful award of full accredited membership with the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID). Our commitment to partnerships and collaboration to achieve better outcomes for refugees was demonstrated by the Thomson Reuters Foundation 2019 TrustLaw Collaboration Award for a joint research project on refugee access to fair and lawful work in Asia.

In response to the terrible COVID 19 pandemic, we have implemented our pandemic response policy, activated our COVID-19 Operational Plan and will continue to implement all government directives and stay alert to unfolding events.

We have expanded our Board to five members, with two new members bringing strong foundational skills in governance, financial investment, communications and human services, increasing the Board's skills and diversity. In 2019, we also established functional subsidiary boards in New Zealand and Malaysia as well as in Australia under our new venture, Regional Opportunities Australia, which supports migrants and refugees living in metropolitan areas to relocate to regional areas experiencing labour shortages.

The Board would like to acknowledge the leadership efforts of our Managing Director and CEO, David Keegan and his executive team Mitra Khakbaz, Ted Thomson and Mahir Momand; and the entire HOST team for their dedication to their often difficult, but always important, work.

Thanks also to my fellow directors: Michael Thomson, Jamila Padhee and Dai Le for their contributions in steering HOST through the changes in our work and to set a clear course for HOST to deliver better outcomes for displaced people in the future.



**Dr Scott Trueman,**  
Chairperson

“

Our vision is for an inclusive world where people on the move and host communities work together to create better lives for all. We believe that this is best achieved by fostering a common sense of humanity, dignity and a shared hope in a better future.

“

David Keegan,  
CEO, HOST International



## CEO'S MESSAGE

# David Keegan

When HOST was established, we did not imagine that we would have assisted more than 2,000 people seeking protection and a better life in five countries in just three years. We did not choose to do this work because we thought it would be easy. We chose it because it was important and essential.

We will always face challenges, and we expect that the COVID19 global pandemic will affect the people we work with disproportionately. Our strategic plan for 2019-2022 seeks to address these issues as we face the harsh realities of 2020 with the all-important assistance of our partners and clients. We concluded our contract for support services in Nauru having progressed our vision of building local capacity, and handed over responsibility for services to a local provider in May 2019.

In 2020 we will build on our foundation and seek to establish new and sustainable sources of funding. We will also seek to grow our influence locally, regionally and globally with a view to making life better for more people on the move and their host communities.

The HOST team deserves a great deal of credit for all their hard work, dedication and effort that created so many positive results for the people we seek to support. Credit and thanks also to our many valued partners for their important and essential contributions. Thanks also to my fellow directors for their support and guidance in a year of success and significant change.



**David Keegan,**  
CEO

WE END THE YEAR PROUD OF WHAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACHIEVE, THROUGH THE HARD WORK OF OUR PEOPLE AND OUR STRONG PARTNERSHIPS. HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE YEAR INCLUDE:

Establishing Regional Opportunities Australia, the first organisation in Australia dedicated to assisting migrants to access employment and other opportunities in regional Australia, helping 15 migrant families start new lives in regional NSW in just 6 months;

Creating the first alternative to detention program for families with children in Thailand, facilitating the release of 26 families, and helping 60 individuals to build new lives with dignity and hope;

Founding, with Federal Government settlement funding, a new community 'incubator' program in Adelaide to help new and emerging community groups achieve their aims and become self-sustaining;

Pioneering a digital coding school for refugees and establishing casework supports for vulnerable Rohingya youth in Malaysia;

Providing food and employment assistance to asylum seekers who are unable to receive government support in Sydney and Adelaide;

Establishing ground breaking research on the psychological coping strategies of refugees in Indonesia in partnership with the University of NSW, University of Gadjah Madah and SUAKA – the Indonesian Civil Society Association for Refugee Rights Protection.



# Where We Work

We work wherever there is need for our skills. In 2019 we worked in Australia and multiple countries across South-East Asia.

## THAILAND

HOST has been working with local NGOs and government to help find alternatives to detention. We also work alongside local host communities to design and implement practical solutions to the needs of refugees in long term displacement.

## NAURU

HOST provided casework for highly vulnerable refugees, employment, and vocational education for refugees, as well as community and capacity development.

## INDONESIA

HOST has been working in partnership with local organisations and refugee communities to conduct research on the coping strategies of people in prolonged displacement. We are also supporting the development of local refugee-led initiatives.

## MALAYSIA

HOST has been working on refugee employment and education projects and building the capacity of local organisations to support urban refugees.

## NEW ZEALAND

HOST is focused on innovative employment and resettlement solutions for former refugees in NZ. We also work with non-profit, business and government organisations to ensure innovative and targeted solutions to resettlement are underway.

## AUSTRALIA

Our head office in Australia supports good governance, financial integrity and operational leadership. We also provide support to refugees and asylum seekers to support full inclusion and to meet basic needs.





## Working with Individuals

We work with individuals to build their resilience, self-reliance and wellbeing. We support individuals to contribute to and be included in host communities and prepare them for further stages of their settlement journey.

“

I can't wait to graduate and be able to give back to others. Your support motivates me to work harder and to achieve better things.

I cannot thank you enough.

“

*Helia, student, 18*



### PROJECT HUMANITY

Project Humanity started with HOST in early 2019 and provides support to asylum seekers, refugees and migrants in NSW who cannot access government support. **Services include:**

- Welfare case work services such as assessment, advice, referral, emergency and medical assistance.
- Employment support such as resume writing, job search and referrals
- Education support, including access to vocational training and English language learning
- Mental Health services access and support
- Legal Referral services
- Referrals to community and social activities such as community gardens, sporting groups, playgroups, women's groups and social support groups.

We work with many charitable and community aid organisations and businesses to provide these services, including Global Aid, National Zakat Foundation, Muslim Aid Australia, Soroptimists International of Hornsby, House of Sadaqa, In Need of Help, GBA Food Hampers, Afghan Community Support, Lawrence Dry Cleaning, medical professional members of the Afghan community and individuals who support our clients with material aid, food and cash donations.

Project Humanity has supported **96 people** including **20 families**

96 

Provided **emergency housing** to **4 people**

04 

Provided **22 clients** with **employment** preparation support

22 

Provided **22 children** with **school needs** and **stationery**

22 

Supported **14 clients** into employment

14 

Provided **emergency aid** to **96 clients**

96 

### CASE STUDY

**Helia, 18, was born in Iran, and came to Australia hoping to be able become a doctor.**

But she and her mother, Fatimah, were struggling without any government assistance.

Project Humanity introduced the family to the Hornsby branch of Soroptimist international, who were offering a scholarship to asylum seekers. Heila, who is performing very well in her studies at Beverly Hills Girls School, was awarded a yearly scholarship of \$1000 and the opportunity to be mentored by a paediatrician.

Project Humanity has also supported the family to access legal advice, employment and education needs.





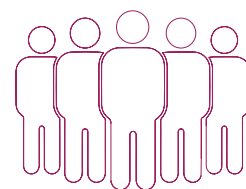
## ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION PROGRAM THAILAND

In January 2019, we started to work with the Thai Government and local partners to design and implement a community-based, case management program focused on supporting the release of refugee and asylum seeker children and their families from immigration detention in Bangkok.

**HOST employs a local team who work closely with a wide range of local service providers, NGOs and community organisations to facilitate and obtain:**

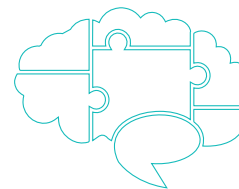
- Pre-release counselling and bail preparation
- Psycho-social support
- Sourcing safe and appropriate accommodation and community support networks
- Transportation and orientation into the local community
- Provision of essential material items and access to emergency relief payments for living
- Access to medical care and legal support
- A life skills education program for parents and children
- Access to vocational training for adults
- Access to school for children.

## IN 2019



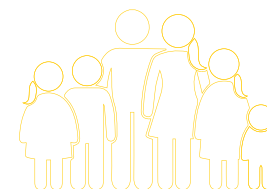
**101 people supported to transition from immigration detention and government shelters into the Thai community (including 74 children).**

**Community outreach activities undertaken to educate and sensitise local Thais about refugee settlement in their communities.**



**Commenced livelihood and vocational training programs (urban agriculture and social enterprise) in close collaboration with other community service organisations to help refugees maintain their independence, dignity and ability to live in the Thai community.**

**Regular dialogue established with the Thai Department of Children and Youth that focuses on the development of an appropriate system.**



**Through our relationships with local NGOs and the government, we are supporting efforts to completely end immigration detention through community-based alternatives.**

**Our program has become a model for testing a broader community-based screening approach that has been proposed by the Thai Government for implementation in 2020.**

**HOST International Thailand not only has strong knowledge about the situation of refugees and migrants in Thailand but is well respected and appreciated by other Thai organisations as well the communities whom they serve.**

“

**Amy Smith**  
Executive Director and co-founder Fortify Rights







## CASE STUDY

**Fostering humanity, hope and dignity for asylum seekers without any government assistance.**

Saeed has held a Safe Haven Enterprise Visa since 2017. Having learned the trade of butchery in his father's butcher shop in Iran, Saeed has worked in multiple meat processing factories in Australia. We assisted Saeed, who was not aware that 'Butcher' is considered a skilled occupation, on his pathway to permanency and in his goal to contribute more to his adopted country.

## FOSTERING FUTURES FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Fostering Futures program started in April 2019 and assists asylum seekers in South Australia who are facing significant barriers to accessing health, education, employment and legal services and are ineligible for government funded support. We work closely with them to overcome these barriers and foster their strengths and abilities to achieve their goals.

Despite ineligibility for government funded support, we helped more than 60 asylum seekers in just ten months by identifying previously untapped resources and better coordinating existing support services.

### Our shared achievements include:

- Three employment placements
- One University Scholarship
- Connecting clients to: small business mentorships; the University of Adelaide Business School; employment workshops; community English classes and resume and job search skills development workshops
- Working with four key organisations to improve their understanding of government support for their clients and the visa process for asylum seekers: Red Cross, St Vincent de Paul Society, Circle of Friends, University of Adelaide, and Welcoming Australia.
- Commencing strategic discussions with Regional Opportunities Australia to determine opportunities for regional work placements in South Australia.

## CASE STUDY

**Electrician, Ali Hussein, and his wife Ayesha, who has a Master of Philosophy in children's education, migrated to Australia in 2019 with their 18-month-old daughter Durre, from rural Pakistan.**

Ali reached out to ROA after he couldn't find a job in Perth. It was

hard for him to get his electrician qualifications recognised and he was also concerned about the high cost and social isolation of city living.

ROA assisted Ali with his resume and interview skills. We obtained work and stay rights in Australia for him, and provided him cultural training and information on Leeton, in the New South Wales Riverina region.

We then found him a permanent job with JBS meat production in Leeton and assisted the family to relocate; connecting them with a local refugee support network comprised of "local champions" that assist newcomers smoothly transition into regional life. ROA continues to work with Ali to help him obtain accreditation as an electrician.

## REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AUSTRALIA

Regional Opportunities Australia (ROA) is a not-for-profit organisation established as a subsidiary of HOST in February 2019. ROA helps migrants and refugees move from cities to welcoming regional communities where they are connected to long-term employment, and small business opportunities.

ROA's objective is to positively transform the lives of migrants and refugees by helping them obtain employment, integrate, and build fulfilling lives so they can make meaningful contributions to the regional Australian economy and society. According to Australian Bureau of Statistics data (2018) almost 86 per cent of migrants settle in greater capital cities, but only 14 per cent move outside those areas.

ROA operates in regional NSW and Victoria and plans to expand to other regional areas experiencing labour shortages, including regional Queensland and South Australia.

### Services provided by ROA include:

- Job readiness support
- Interview and resume preparation
- Guidance on qualification recognition
- Employment and small business opportunities
- Cultural training
- Housing and relocation support, and
- Connection with mentors and services.

In 2019, we assisted more than 40 individuals including clients and their family members to move to regional NSW.

ROA has secured pro-bono support services and is seeking other funding sources. We have partnered with 48 regional employers and educational institutions, including Ramsay Health, Southern Cross Care Living and Western Sydney University. Our philanthropic partners include Gilbert + Tobin, PwC, Domestique, RecMate, and Newgate Australia.

Demand has been maintained and in some cases grown for our work in the wake of bushfires and drought from late 2019, and now the COVID-19 pandemic.







## RECODE

HOST launched a pioneering project in Malaysia that trains refugees in computer coding to open up global employment opportunities.

Refugees in Malaysia do not have the right to work. RECODE provides free coding training to prepare students to access remote work opportunities in the international information and communications technology industry to overcome work rights limitations.

At least seven students have found related employment following their successful completion of the course. Forty students from Afghanistan, Myanmar, Pakistan, Somalia, Syria and Yemen have completed the course. The HOST program also achieved a higher than average retention rate for coding academies.

As students are often in dire financial positions, student retention is incentivised with small living stipends and performance-based incentives awarded during monthly 'hackathons'.

This innovative program is part of our mission to help refugees and asylum seekers in Malaysia find work, independence and freedom from employment exploitation and to foster the next wave of refugee entrepreneurs.

“

**Finally, someone that treats us like normal human beings. I knew this would be hard, but now that I've gone through this, it seems so much easier and gives me confidence that I CAN do it!”**

“

*RECODE Participant*



## NAURU SETTLEMENT SERVICES

Between December 2016 and May 2019, HOST worked with refugees and asylum seekers in Nauru, a small Pacific island country designated by the Australian Government as a transitory displacement location for refugees and asylum seekers from many countries, including Afghanistan, Syria, Iran, Myanmar, Iraq, Sri Lanka, and Somalia.

We focused on helping people to remain well by providing psychosocial supports, employment, training and community building activities. We also directly supported refugees to be prepared for permanent transfers to the United States of America.

Our focus on building capacity for services to be delivered locally resulted in handing responsibility for support services to a local organisation at the conclusion of our contract in May 2019.



**Casework** - complex case support and transitional case management support



**Employment** - case support, access to vocational training and mentoring and job placement



**Capacity development** - local community training, policy advice and refugee community support including co-design of community solutions.



**A community engagement program** to engage local and refugee communities in activities and events that promoted inclusion and celebration of diverse cultures.





“

Host International NZ has a goal of helping people with a refugee background to find employment. That is exactly what they achieved for me. Having a refugee background, at times you feel like you're not on a level playing field with your peers because you have been playing catch up since arriving in NZ.

As a law student I really wanted to get experience in the field so I could know first-hand what it means to be a lawyer and what the job would require of me. That is precisely what my clerkship at Woods Fletcher and Associates has offered me. This would not have been possible without HOST International NZ.

“

- Noella Ishimwe Niyonzima

## GLOBAL TALENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

In October 2019, HOST International New Zealand launched our Global Talent internship program, providing former refugees with practical work experience and local referees through 1-3 month internship placements. Job-ready candidates of refugee background encounter a significant barrier around demonstrated local experience. This program addresses this barrier. The program supports participants to build networks and experience to connect them with job opportunities and educates employers about the business case for employing people from a refugee background.

At the end of 2019 we had:

14

interns from a migrant or refugee background registered.

60

a network of over 60 employers in fields such as business, accounting and finance, architecture, law, education, construction and engineering.

5

in only a few months, the program confirmed 5 internships with another 6 in negotiation.

This program was developed with support from the NZ Superdiversity Institute that had piloted a similar program in Auckland for international students.

## STEP INTO YOUR FUTURE AND ENTERING THE KIWI WORKFORCE

In addition to HOST NZ's internship program, we provided job preparation workshops for former refugees designed to help them get familiarised with NZ employment. The program consists of four half-day sessions incorporating writing a professional CV and cover letter, job interviews, workplace communication, NZ working style and Kiwi culture.

30 participants completed workshops

30



more than 80% of participants rated it as "extremely useful" in preparing them for the Kiwi workforce

80%



“

HOST International NZ is doing a very good job of forging links with relevant professional bodies and explaining things to refugees in a sensitive manner. I very much value the efforts you are taking.

“

- Woods Fletcher & Associates





## Working with Communities

We stand  
#WithRefugees

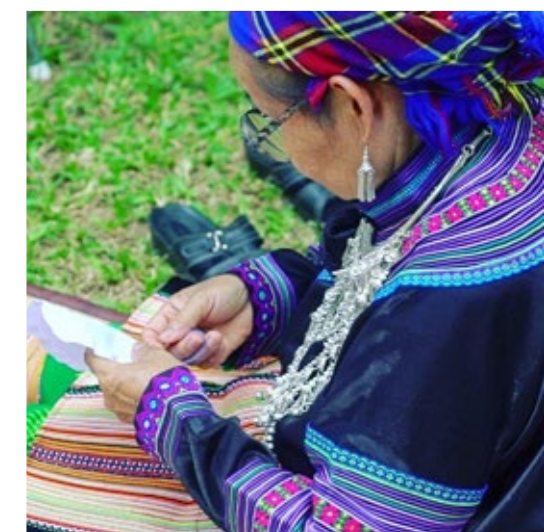
Our work with communities focuses on partnerships. We work with refugees and host communities so displaced people can be integrated and valued, and communities can thrive.



### CANDLELIGHTERS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

We established the CandleLighters volunteer program to help fill skills gaps in projects that were underway but insufficiently resourced. In 2019, we placed four skilled volunteers with partner organisations in Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia on six-month assignments to assist refugees to develop a wide range of projects, including:

- A fund-raising activity plan for Malaysia Rohingya Society women's transitional home for survivors of gender-based violence;
- A framework to monitor and evaluate a foster care program for unaccompanied refugee young people in Malaysia;
- Case management guide and skills training to support case managers working with young refugees in Malaysia;
- Linking refugee women in Thailand to local social enterprises to develop employment skills;
- Mentoring three refugee community organisations to implement their 'Community Self Reliance' grant from UNHCR Malaysia;
- Supporting refugees in Indonesia access higher education with an internationally recognised high school credential.







## EMERGING COMMUNITIES INCUBATOR PROGRAM, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Commonwealth Government's Settlement Engagement and Transition Support (SETS) Community Capacity Building Program aims to assist new and emerging communities to work together to increase social participation and economic and personal well-being.

HOST was awarded a contract by the Department of Home Affairs to deliver services that support communities to respond to emerging needs over a three year period commencing 1 July 2019.

Our Emerging Communities Incubator has been designed to increase the social and economic participation, along with health and well-being outcomes of migrant and refugee communities by working closely with them to design and implement solutions to local settlement needs, including:

- Developing community settlement strategies and plans for ethno-specific communities
- Building the capacity of communities to be self-reliant and participate equitably in Australian society

- Developing effective links and partnerships with key stakeholders who are integral to providing services that facilitate referrals.

### In 2019 we worked with:

- **DISKA Australia**, which started as a karate club in a UNHCR refugee camp in Nepal and was a great source of companionship and emotional support. We are working to formally establish the association in South Australia so it can provide a karate training program for community members.
- **Zomi Innkuan Adelaide**, an incorporated community organisation representing the Zomi people from Myanmar in South Australia. The Zomi leadership team is working with the HOST towards launching an ethnic school to help preserve their unique linguistic and cultural heritage.
- **AL SHAM**, established to support the Syrian community through voluntary services such as service provider referrals, workshop facilitation, information sessions and sport



“  
HOST supported us to move into another level where we were able to recruit and employ people and make sure we had good governance, including policies and insurances.  
”

- Muhama Yotham, ANMS Chairperson

for young people. HOST is working with Al Sham to co-design and implement their community action plan.

- **OLFA**, a non profit community organisation which helps the Muslim community integrate with the wider Australian community through participation in art and the sport of fencing. OLFA aims to empower women, increase their self-confidence, and support children with special needs. OLFA engaged in a co-design process with HOST to develop an action plan which will assist them to achieve their goals.
- **Amazing Northern Multicultural Service**, a social welfare organisation founded by members of the Burundian Community, which provides a wide range of support services and early intervention programs. HOST has worked with ANMS to help them employ their first staff members to coordinate life skills workshops and community garden activities.
- **Adelaide Dragons Football Club** (see case study).

## CASE STUDY

**A group of friends escaped the difficulties of living in their Nepalese refugee camp for more than ten years by creating a football team to give them 'one reason to smile'.**

*'After our resettlement, here in Australia, we had everything yet nothing. We faced a massive cultural shock. Everything was completely strange to us. So, in that time of isolation and need, yet again football became part of our community engagement, interaction and communication'.*

*The friends, who were forced into exile from Bhutan, are now proud members of the Adelaide Dragons Football Club.*

*HOST supported the team to gain formal legal status as a sporting entity so they could apply for grants and participate in tournaments.*

*HOST will continue to work with the Dragons to implement a community action plan to further develop the skills and capacity of their leadership team.*





“

HOST has played the role of being our ally by listening and shining a spotlight on our voices which we feel are often unheard as youth and refugees.

“

PSU Team



“

It was so fun - it was also difficult - but I tried to help my sister and my family sharing the responsibilities with them, I wasn't doing it usually, but now it's time to do my own work.

“

Omar - Project Stand Up Champion



“

Huge thanks to all of you for creating such a special evening .... was so amazing to be able to connect with so many over such incredibly delicious food. Thank you so much for your partnership and faith in a community-driven event like this.

“

Community partner

## PROJECT STAND UP

In 2019 HOST International worked with students from the Fugee School, a refugee learning centre in Kuala Lumpur, to develop Project Stand Up, a youth leadership program and app to promote gender equality by focusing on breaking barriers to education for girls and young women.

A group of ten students, two young women and eight young men from Somalia, Libya and Yemen, started the project when they found that girls were missing out on opportunities to attend school because they had to tend to household duties, particularly girls from North African and Middle Eastern communities.

HOST supported the Project Stand Up (PSU) team to access funding from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) innovationXchange program and provided mentorship, access to skilled volunteers and contract and project management services.

Project Stand Up (PSU) is comprised of a youth leadership training program to challenge gender norms; and the PSU app which connects the refugee community with trained youth 'champions' to complete tasks traditionally considered girls' work.

In 2019 PSU was awarded a UNHCR Innovation Service grant for version 2 of the Project Stand Up app and was a semi-finalist in the Global Innovation Exchange Digital Pitch Contest. The project was also featured at The Global Refugee Forum and two international conferences in 2019.

27%

of students saw an improvement in women being given a priority in their community to lead and make decisions.

33%

of students had an improved mindset towards a girl being whatever she wants to be when she grows up.

28%

more girls felt that their teachers encouraged them to speak up and participate in school

34%

of students have a stronger belief that boys and girls have equal responsibility for household duties

## FOUNDING PARTNER OF TECHFUGEES NZ

In 2019 HOST International New Zealand became the founding partner of Techfugees NZ, part of the global Techfugees network - with 20 chapters and a 35,000-strong network around the world - coming together to empower displaced people and former refugees with technology.

As founding partner, HOST NZ supported Techfugees NZ to organise workshops, 'hackathons' and meetups in New Zealand to generate tech solutions with and for former refugees. The inaugural NZ Techfugees hackathon produced three prototype tech solutions: a multilingual, community-driven platform to access local recognition of partial and full overseas qualifications, and opportunities to educate and inform employers and challenge their recruitment biases.

Project Partners include Microsoft NZ and ChangeMakers Resettlement Forum.



## CULTURE WITHOUT BORDERS NZ

'Culture Without Borders' brings former refugees and Kiwis together for a series of informal social events, creating a space to foster mutual learning and deeper understanding. Social connections are critical to health and wellbeing, and sharing knowledge and experiences fosters social connection and cohesion.

This initiative is designed and led by a former refugee now living in New Zealand (working within HOST NZ) with the goal of building strong, connected communities through the celebration of shared cultures.

A community dinner to celebrate the end of Ramadan was part of the program, bringing new-arrival communities and established communities together to meet and connect while sharing culturally diverse cuisine.

This project worked in partnership with Friends of Vogelmorn, Change Makers Resettlement Forum & Damascus OK.



## Working Globally

We work to amplify the voices of displaced communities, through research and advocacy that influences policies and practices globally.

# REFUGEE WORK RIGHTS REPORT

REFUGEE ACCESS  
TO FAIR AND LAWFUL WORK IN ASIA



### THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION 2019 TRUSTLAW COLLABORATION AWARD

A HOST International partnership was awarded the Thomson Reuters Foundation 2019 TrustLaw Collaboration Award for a joint research project on refugee access to fair and lawful work in Asia.

The Awards recognise ground-breaking pro-bono projects undertaken by legal teams with NGOs and social enterprises in the TrustLaw network.

HOST worked with Asylum Access, Refugee Talent and six pro-bono legal firms from across Asia to produce a report that examines the rights of refugees to work safely and lawfully in eight countries in Asia: Bangladesh, India, Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, South Korea and Japan.

We developed country-specific scorecards examining policies and practices in the eight countries to provide a clear starting point for engaging with refugee work rights in Asia.

Pro-bono legal support for the project was led by Nokia and supported by teams from DLA Piper, SyCip Salazar Hernandez & Gatmaitan, BTG Legal, Bae, Kim & Lee and Baker McKenzie.



THOMSON REUTERS  
FOUNDATION

“

**In a time of protracted conflicts globally, alternative pathways for refugees to settle and continue with their lives is vital. Legal employment is one option which can also help host countries thrive.**

“

*Fiona Li, the Asia Pacific TrustLaw representative who supported coordination of the project.*





“

I am inspired by HOST International's non-traditional approach to facilitate effective community integration by investing directly in the refugee communities.

“

Baqir Bayani, Co-founder and Co-director of HELP for Refugees, Jakarta



## PATHWAYS TO REFUGEE WELLBEING RESEARCH

In 2019 HOST International jointly launched a Jakarta-based research project designed to investigate how refugees and asylum-seekers adapt in environments of sustained displacement.

The two-year project is being conducted in partnership with the Refugee Trauma and Recovery Program at the University of NSW, University of Gadjah Madah and SUAKA - The Indonesian Civil Society Association for Refugee Rights Protection.

The study seeks to understand the strengths and needs of refugees living in sustained displacement: the coping strategies used by refugees who adapt more positively to life in sustained displacement; and the specific needs of those who require more support.

The pilot project involves community leaders from different ethnic backgrounds. We have involved community interpreters to promote a refugee community-led initiative and translated study measures into five languages: Somali, Dari, Farsi, Arabic and English.

The project is funded by the Australian Research Council and HOST International.

“

I think the research is a really good opportunity for refugees in Indonesia to share their story about our condition living in this limbo life and what it does to our mental health. This project is important for refugees in Indonesia because I have never seen any research or survey that focuses on refugee life trauma. I think through this project, we can send a strong message to the rest of the world about what may be helpful for refugees' mental health and their future. I hope this will make the world and countries like Australia understand more about us

“

Nimo, community leader

## REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE ON ALTERNATIVES TO CHILD DETENTION

HOST International was one of 35 representatives at the Regional Roundtable on Alternative Care Arrangements for Children in the Context of International Migration in the Asia Pacific conducted in November 2019 in Bangkok. Representatives from Australia, Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia came together to share experiences and best practices in alternatives to child detention.

HOST shared our achievements in working with the Thai Government to release children and families from immigration detention and to establish community-based protection services. We also hosted a field trip to help participants understand supports available to refugees in Thailand as a result of our work.

HOST specialises in partnering with governments and civil society to advance community-based protection services that aim to achieve more humane treatment of forcibly displaced people. HOST International will continue the dialogue with the governments of Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia to progress community-based protection in their countries.







## ACCREDITATION WITH AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In April 2019 HOST International became a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID), which is the peak council for Australian not-for-profit aid and development organisations. HOST is proudly part of a network which unites Australia's non-government aid and international development organisations to strengthen their collective impact against poverty.

To qualify for ACFID membership, HOST underwent a thorough accreditation process, meeting 33 commitments which encourage members to observe the highest ethical standards in all their activities, including strict observance of the Code of Conduct and to work towards improving practice over time. The ACFID Code of Conduct (the Code) is a voluntary, self-regulatory sector code of good practice. The Code aims to improve international development and humanitarian action outcomes and increase stakeholder trust by enhancing the transparency, accountability and effectiveness of ACFID's members. In conjunction with other aspects of ACFID's work, the effective delivery of the Code contributes to the realisation

of human rights and the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals.

As a signatory, HOST International is committed and fully adheres to the ACFID Code of Conduct, conducting our work with transparency, accountability and integrity.



AUSTRALIAN  
COUNCIL  
FOR  
INTERNATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT

## Asia Pacific Humanitarian Leadership Conference

The 2019 Asia Pacific Humanitarian Leadership Conference brought together leading humanitarian thinkers from around the world for three days to explore issues for humanitarian leaders in the Asia Pacific and fragile states.

HOST International presented in partnership with refugee youth from Malaysia in the Transformative Practice session on 'Creating Opportunities for Refugee Youth to Participate in Designing and Implementing Local Solutions'.



## UNHCR Global Compact on Refugees Good Practice Collection

This digital platform enables the sharing of learnings and experiences on the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees. It allows individuals, governments, organisations and businesses to connect with each other on projects that are changing the lives of refugees and their host communities for the better. HOST International has two projects featured on the digital platform:

### 1. Access to Employment and Livelihoods for refugees in the Asia Pacific

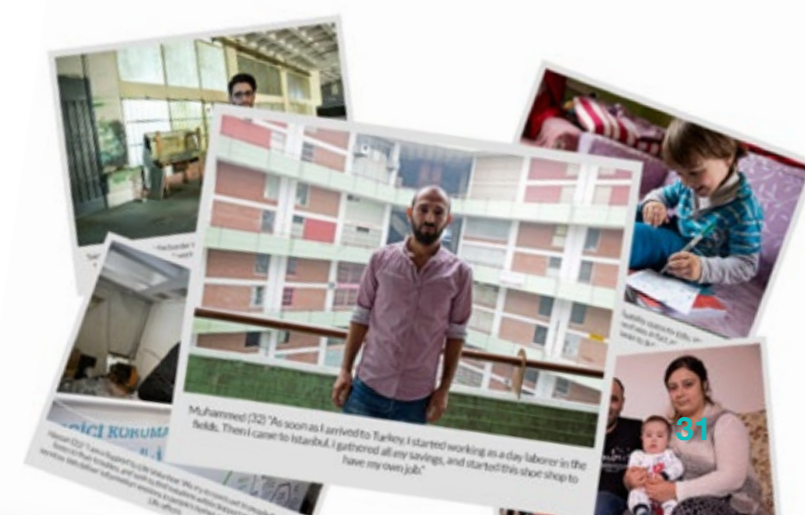
Through a multi-stakeholder approach, engaging grassroots NGOs, the private sector and advocacy and research organisations, this project has raised awareness of refugees throughout the Asia-Pacific region which lacks labour rights and access to livelihoods. This also allowed the examining of the potential for complementary settlement pathways, such as skilled migration, to meet labour shortages in the Asia-Pacific region. (See page 27 for further information).

### 2. Alternatives to Detention in Thailand

Working with local NGO partners and the Thai Government to implement an effective alternatives to detention program. (See pages 12 and 29 for further details).

### Meet, Share, Inspire: International Conference of Good Practices on Refugee Protection Ankara, Turkey

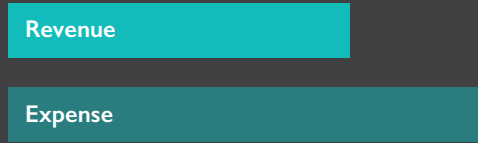
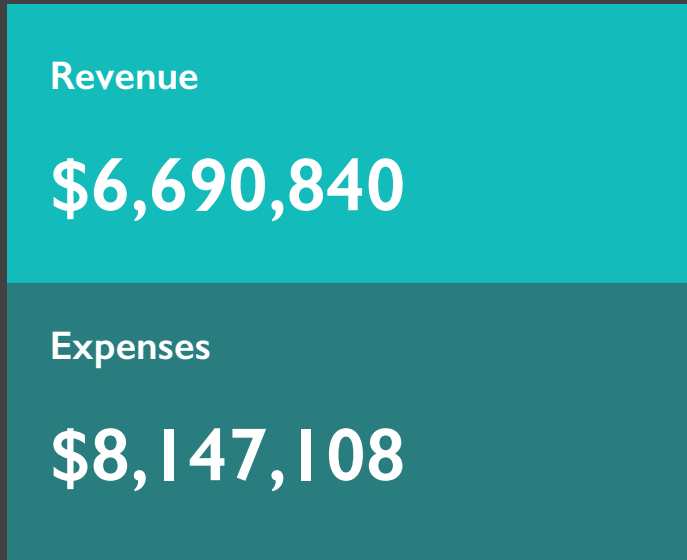
HOST International presented on a panel that focused on advocacy for gender equality and children's rights under the framework of child protection. HOST presented on Project Stand Up, a youth-led initiative increasing the participation and decision-making capacity of refugee young people.





# Finances

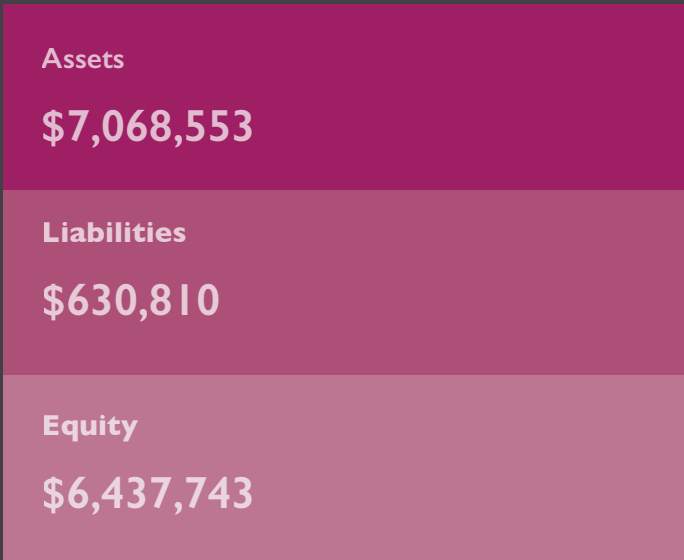
IN 2019 OVERALL HOST GROUP RESULT



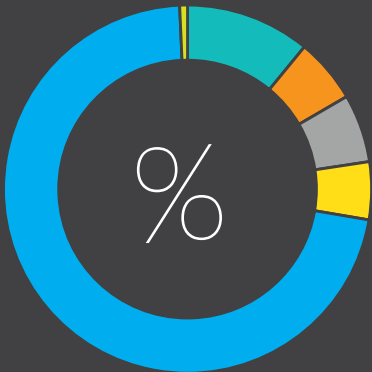
A SHORTFALL OF \$1,456,268 WAS FINANCED BY HOST RETAINED EARNINGS



AS AT 31 DEC 2019



EXPENSES - PROGRAM EXPENDITURE BY COUNTRY



CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2019

	2019 \$	2018 \$
<strong>REVENUE</strong>		
<strong>Donations and gifts</strong>		
Monetary	103,492	103,943
<strong>Grants</strong>		
Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade	46,348	118,439
Department of Home Affairs (Nauru)	2,628,614	7,885,841
Other Overseas Government Grant	11,972	-
Other Overseas Grant	15,000	4,955
<strong>Investment Income</strong>		
Interest	137,450	42,414
Rent Received	81,402	-
Other Income	103,718	-
<strong>Domestic and Non Aid Related Grants</strong>		
Department of Home Affairs (Nauru)	3,457,228	10,500,383
Department of Home Affairs (SETS)	105,616	-
<strong>TOTAL REVENUE</strong>	<strong>6,690,840</strong>	<strong>18,655,975</strong>
<strong>EXPENDITURE</strong>		
<strong>International Aid &amp; Development Programs</strong>		
International Programs (Nauru)	2,217,548	4,823,590
International Programs (Malaysia)	351,006	225,984
International Programs (Thailand)	295,555	43,625
Candelighters	36,288	54,303
Littlethings Small Grants Program	5,030	35,000
Programs support costs	1,025,604	1,258,055
<strong>Fundraising Costs</strong>		
Government, Multilateral and Private	101,999	98,550
Accountability and Administration	278,240	210,788
<strong>TOTAL INTERNATIONAL AID &amp; DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS EXPENDITURE</strong>	<strong>4,311,270</strong>	<strong>6,749,896</strong>
<strong>International Non Aid &amp; Development Expenditure</strong>		
International Programs (Nauru)	2,091,995	7,191,123
International Programs (Malaysia)	9,407	27,176
International Programs (Thailand)	9,407	27,176
International Programs (New Zealand)	341,127	267,162
<strong>Domestic Programs Expenditure</strong>		
SETS (Adelaide)	175,572	-
Humanity Australia (Sydney)	67,300	-
Regional Opportunities Australia (NSW, QLD, VIC)	415,716	-
Domestic Program Support Costs	725,314	1,385,807
<strong>Total Non International Aid and Domestic Expenditure</strong>	<strong>3,835,838</strong>	<strong>8,898,444</strong>
<strong>Total Expenditure</strong>	<strong>8,147,108</strong>	<strong>15,648,340</strong>
<strong>Excess/(Shortfall) of Revenue Over Expenditure</strong>	<strong>(1,456,268)</strong>	<strong>3,007,635</strong>
Total Excess/(Shortfall) of Revenue Over Expenditure for the year is attributable to:		
Owners of HOST International Ltd	(1,349,067)	3,007,635
Non-controlling interests	(107,201)	-
<strong>Excess/(Shortfall) of Revenue Over Expenditure</strong>	<strong>(1,456,268)</strong>	<strong>3,007,635</strong>

This summary financial information was extracted from the audited annual financial report. It is consistent in substance with these statements notwithstanding the less technical language and content. The full financial statements are available on the HOST International website at [www.hostinternational.org.au](http://www.hostinternational.org.au)



**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019**

	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	2,170,380	5,620,287
Trade and other receivables	473,916	1,791,670
Other assets	108,887	166,490
Financial assets	1,035,000	2,035,000
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>3,788,183</b>	<b>9,613,447</b>
<b>NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	159,161	261,093
Right-of-use assets	298,629	-
Investment property	2,822,580	-
<b>TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>3,280,370</b>	<b>261,093</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>7,068,553</b>	<b>9,874,54</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Trade and other payables	78,923	1,291,758
Lease liabilities	219,882	-
Employee benefits	136,227	688,771
Contract Liabilities	105,616	-
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>540,648</b>	<b>1,980,529</b>
<b>NON CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Lease liabilities	90,162	-
<b>TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>90,162</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>630,810</b>	<b>1,980,529</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>6,437,743</b>	<b>7,894,011</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Retained surplus attributable to owners of HOST International Ltd	6,544,944	7,894,011
Non-controlling interests	(107,201)	-
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>6,437,743</b>	<b>7,894,011</b>

The following financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements set out in the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct. For further information on the Code please refer to the ACFID website [www.acfid.asn.au](http://www.acfid.asn.au)

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

	RETAINED SURPLUSES \$	NON- CONTROLLING INTEREST \$	TOTAL EQUITY \$
<b>Balance at 1 January 2019</b>	7,894,011	-	7,894,011
Excess of expenses over revenue	(1,349,067)	(107,201)	(1,456,268)
<b>Balance at 31 December 2019</b>	<b>6,544,944</b>	<b>(107,201)</b>	<b>6,437,743</b>

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Receipts from customers	8,627,991	20,326,385
Payments to suppliers and employees	(9,511,782)	(15,693,285)
GST Paid	(649,365)	(1,567,377)
Interest received	137,450	42,414
Financial costs	-	(11,121)
<b>Net cash (used in) and provided by operating activities</b>	<b>(1,395,706)</b>	<b>3,097,016</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Payment for property, plant & equipment	(27,788)	(289,447)
Net payment for investments	(1,822,580)	(1,000,000)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(1,850,368)</b>	<b>(1,289,447)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Repayment of lease liabilities	(203,833)-	-
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>	<b>(203,833)</b>	<b>-</b>
Net increase in cash held	(3,449,907)	1,807,569
Cash at the beginning of the financial year	5,620,287	3,812,718
<b>Cash at the end of the financial year</b>	<b>2,170,380</b>	<b>5,620,287</b>

**Note 1: Basis of Preparation**

These summary financial statements have been prepared for the purposes of fulfilling HOST International Ltd's ("the company") financial reporting obligation under the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct.

The accounting policies applied in preparing the statement are consistent with those used to prepare the company's general purpose financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019, which was signed 29 June 2020. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board ("AASB"), and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Act 2012, as appropriate for not-for-profit oriented entities.

The full financial statements are available on the HOST International website at [www.hostinternational.org.au/](http://www.hostinternational.org.au/)

**Note 2: Directors' declaration**

The signed directors' declaration is included in the full version of the audited financial statements, which is available on the HOST International website at [www.hostinternational.org.au/](http://www.hostinternational.org.au/)





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## Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of HOST International Ltd

### Opinion

We have audited the summary financial statements of HOST International Ltd and its subsidiaries (the "Group"), which comprises the consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 December 2019, the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the consolidated statement of changes in equity and the consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and related notes 1 to 2, that were derived from the audited financial report of HOST International Ltd for the year ended 31 December 2019. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on that financial report in our report dated 29 June 2020. That financial report, and the summary financial statements, do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on that financial report.

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013 applied in the preparation of the audited financial report. Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial report and the auditor's report of HOST International Ltd.

In our opinion, the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial report of HOST International Ltd for the year ended 31 December 2019 are consistent, in all material respects, with that audited financial report, in accordance with the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the summary financial statements.

### Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution and Use

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The summary financial statements have been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the directors financial reporting responsibilities under the Australian Council for International Development's ("ACFID") Code of Conduct. As a result, the summary financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for the directors of HOST International Ltd and ACFID and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than the directors of HOST International Ltd and ACFID.

The title 'Partner' conveys that the person is a senior member within their respective division, and is among the group of persons who hold an equity interest (shareholder) in its parent entity, Findex Group Limited. The only professional service offering which is conducted by a partnership is the Crowe Australasia external audit division. All other professional services offered by Findex Group Limited are conducted by a privately owned organisation and/or its subsidiaries.

Findex (Aust) Pty Ltd, trading as Crowe Australasia is a member of Crowe Global, a Swiss verein. Each member firm of Crowe Global is a separate and independent legal entity. Findex (Aust) Pty Ltd and its affiliates are not responsible or liable for any acts or omissions of Crowe Global or any other member of Crowe Global. Crowe Global does not render any professional services and does not have an ownership or partnership interest in Findex (Aust) Pty Ltd. Services are provided by Crowe Sydney, an affiliate of Findex (Aust) Pty Ltd. Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.

### Other Information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information contained in the Group's Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2019, but does not include the summary financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the summary financial statements does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the summary financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

### Responsibilities of the Directors for the Summary Financial Statements

The directors of the Group are responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements in accordance with the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the summary financial statements.

### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Summary Financial Statements

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Auditing Standard ASA 810 *Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements*.

**Crowe Sydney**

**Alison Swansborough**  
Associate Partner

10 July 2020  
Sydney



## Acknowledgments

We are a people business that relies on committed and hard-working staff and volunteers. We want to say a special 'thank you' to those who have contributed greatly throughout a year full of many challenges and much change.

Thank you also to the **HOST Board members, Scott Trueman, Michael Thomson, Jamila Trad-Padhee and Dai Le** who volunteered their time to govern HOST in 2019 and provided valuable support and direction.

Our work relies on partnerships and collaboration. There are many individuals and organisations who have been part of our work in 2019 and there are too many to mention here. We appreciate the support of donors in particular and of community organisations who have welcomed and guided us.

A special mention is needed for refugees and community leaders who work tirelessly to promote integration and to advocate for the needs of their community with no remuneration and often over a lifetime. Furthermore, we acknowledge the millions of refugees who remain displaced or with unresolved settlement needs. Their day to day life is a struggle and their future is often uncertain and overwhelming.

Our goal is to bring humanity, hope and dignity to displaced people and empower them to be part of the solution. Without them and their confidence in us we would not be able to do our work. We also acknowledge their ongoing struggle.

