

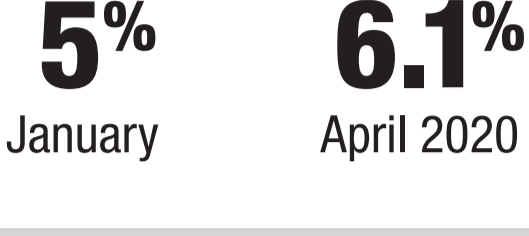


Sad irony: no trickle-down for those at the bottom

While unemployment is dropping, those among the most disadvantaged see no benefit.

COVID Unemployment Snapshot

Australian-born, NSW residents suffered in the COVID onslaught



However, Unions NSW reports that temporary-visa holders* were hit extra hard

65%
Lost their jobs

** All asylum seekers are temporary-visa holders*

People seeking asylum typically face greater barriers to entry or re-entry into the workforce. Often the first to lose a job, they are usually the last to get another.

People seeking asylum face competition for jobs from people previously employed in industries such as tourism. Meanwhile, the state economy threatens to contract a further half per cent this financial year.

How do you tell someone they are not vulnerable enough?

Worryingly, financial constraints are forcing those providing assistance to asylum seekers to divide clients into 'very vulnerable' and 'less vulnerable'.

Nearly one-quarter of the latter are now being left with no support so Bridge has been exhaustively pushing grant applications into philanthropic organisations and other grant makers. A recent success secured \$5,000 from Multicultural NSW.

Such grants are a lifeline for Bridge's clients, however donations from supporters such as you are ever more valuable. Please consider becoming a regular contributor as this allows us to plan and give certainty to clients.

In the 2018 financial year Bridge's clients were supported for nine weeks, during the 2020 financial year this has exploded to 23 weeks.



Saber's* family were a religious minority running a small hardware business. This meant their shop could be easily attacked. No longer safe, they sought asylum in Australia.

While their children settled into school and learnt English, Saber and his wife struggled to find work and their savings were quickly gobbled up.

Now forced to borrow, Saber began driving a rideshare car, partnering with someone he met via a community group.

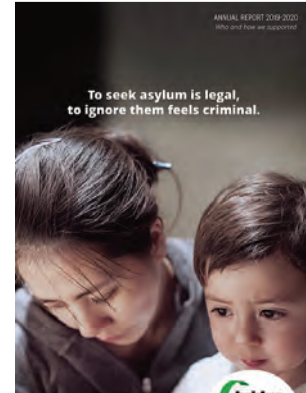
Sadly, the COVID lockdown slashed Saber's earnings, his one shift plummeting to 'barely feeding us'.

Fortunately, Bridge's support lets the family pay rent and for internet usage needed in schooling.

Saber continues to pick up some income from his driving while his wife's daily English classes (hopefully) improve her chances of work.

**Not his real name*

BE ASSURED
97.42% of every dollar you donate is received by asylum seekers—
please download our annual report



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