



\$139.8m → **\$19.6m**

2017-18

2020-21

Government support dives, burdening charities

As the pandemic bites deeper our Federal Government makes it much worse for asylum seekers, slashing support by some 86% within just four years.

This, and the projected ending of the state government's emergency funding, threatens to overwhelm charities and not-for-profits.

With COVID-19 destroying the jobs and threatening the security of our clients, many of the most vulnerable among us now face insurmountable challenges.

86% of aid withdrawn

Federal Government squeezes hard



on lives and hopes of asylum seekers

Will you give us your support?

Hitherto your support has proved invaluable, with Bridge assisting 167 clients last financial year. This largesse has also enabled us to extend monthly aid (on average) to 75 people—including 19 children.

Sadly, we must ask again—on behalf of those that can't.

[Please donate here](#)

Well written

An excellent article by Robyn Read highlights the disturbing decline in asylum seeker support from our government—from increasingly inhumane visas to life-threatening cuts in financial support.

Read it here: johnmenadue.com



Our transition

Bridge is transitioning from a committee under the auspices of Uniting NSW.ACT to being an independent association and registered charity. A combination of pro bono assistance from lawyers Gilbert and Tobin, and lots of work by our committee members will see a New Year's launch of Bridge for Asylum Seekers Incorporated.

The Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission has approved our application. Additionally, the Australian Taxation Office has endorsed Bridge for Charity Tax Concessions and as a Deductible Gift Recipient. This ensures receipt of donations and grants can continue as previously.

Bridge bank account details as of **January 1st, 2020:**

Bridge For Asylum Seekers Incorporated

BSB: 313140 • Account Number: 12297971

Donations made to the current Bridge account will be transferred to the new one until the beginning of February.

Please **click** to visit our website for more information.

[Banking details](#)

All donors please note:

Donations received up to **December 31st** will be receipted using Uniting's ABN (i.e. as previously)

All donations over \$2 will be tax deductible

Donations received after **December 31st** will be receipted under Bridge's new ABN (i.e. from hereon)

BE ASSURED

97.42% of every dollar you donate is received by asylum seekers—

please download our annual report



Our committee

As Bridge changes from an autonomous committee of Uniting NSW.ACT to an incorporated association, pleasingly Chair Janet Castle, Secretary Felicia Tesoriero and general committee members Janice Thompson and Caroline Mackie will continue their service.

However, we farewell—with many thanks—Treasurer Andrew Clark.

Excitingly, we welcome three new members (and their strong range of professional and personal experiences):

Rebecca Ding, Bridge's new Treasurer. University-trained in both accounting and law, Rebecca is expert at strategy at an executive level and heads consultancy firm Diligent Advisory. She has led teams at Qantas, NBN Co, and NRMA—transforming them to deliver improved outcomes.

Jack Collins, general committee member, is a property consultant well versed in volunteer-run organisations, with much knowledge of governing NFPs and grant application writing. Jack is Secretary of Tamarama Surf Life Saving Club, an NFP with \$1 million of assets.

Ruth Kestermann, general committee member, is CEO at Holdsworth Community, an NFP (\$6 million p.a. income) working with older people, those living with disabilities and memory loss, families and carers. Ruth has been an engineer in the UK, New Zealand, Kiribati and Australia, and is expert in organisational management.

LOOKING TO ESCAPE PERSECUTION ONLY TO FACE DESTITUTION

NO JOB, NO HELP, NO HOPE

[Donate here](#)

No funds are expended in the creation or delivery of this Bridge communication. Work is provided pro bono by LPN Design.

Bridge for Asylum Seekers Foundation is a Committee of UnitingCare NSW ACT and donations to the Foundation of \$2 and over are tax deductible. ABN 78 722 539 923.