

47% of Bridge clients have **no work rights** and no government financial support

53% Many of the remainder **can't work** due to care responsibilities, mental and/or physical problems or language barriers

Thanks to you, during April Bridge supported 80 clients including 15 children



Isolated

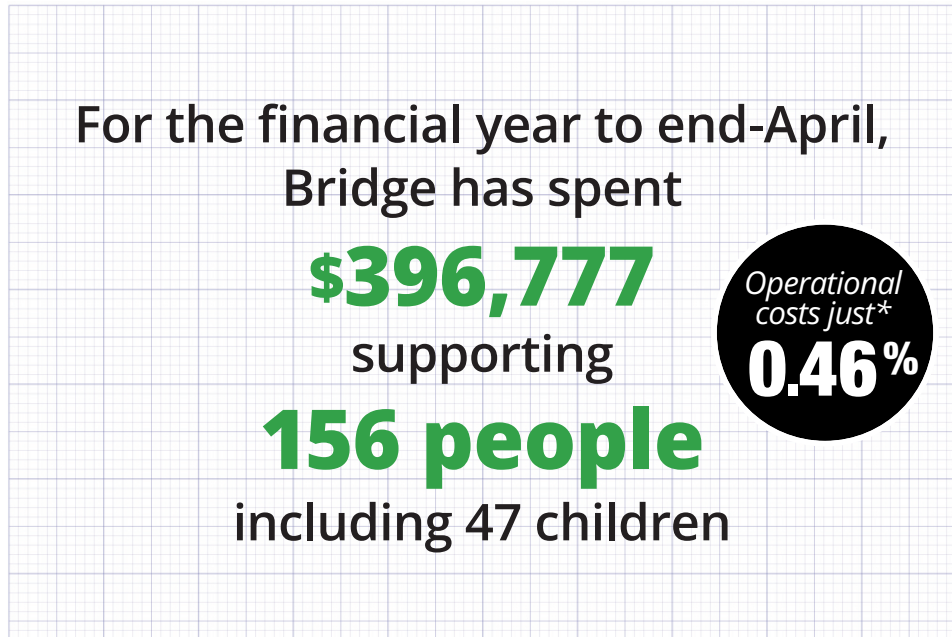
One was a domestic violence survivor with only sporadic work

Hopeful

Another is in an employment program, hoping to get work

Self-propelled

While a third is intent on her studies in order to secure work



*Operational costs to end-April were \$1818, and represented 0.46% of the money spent supporting clients

How your dollars bring change and hope

Single with work rights, Djemila

was homeless when introduced to Bridge. With our assistance in paying for bed and food, she has secured a place in a women's shelter and is now an active job-hunter.

Djemila longs for her independence and having her own place.

Refugee Council of Australia Newsletter



Click here to read in full

15,000

seeking asylum live in deep poverty and face destitution

30,000

have no access to Medicare

The only federal government support

they can apply* for is Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS) but last year's budget was underspent by \$22m — not because of lack of need but because of the unnecessarily complicated application processes and restricted eligibility.

*Those in NSW excluded from SRSS and in need, are reliant upon charities such as Bridge.

Additionally, other organisations report:

An increase in homelessness: the rental crisis is at breaking point for those seeking asylum. The lack of affordable, safe housing has forced many into homelessness.

Unmet need for medical care and pharmaceuticals: people can't access timely help or fill evermore expensive prescriptions

A jump in the severity and complexity of those presenting with mental health problems

Food insecurity: people cannot afford food and are reliant on food banks. Health practitioners report children as malnourished and suffering developmental delays.

So, what did the federal budget deliver?

While the budget increased funding for refugee support services, it doesn't extend to asylum seekers in our community.

"It's disappointing to see the allocation for Asylum Seeker Support Payments has been **cut from \$37 million in last year's budget to \$17.3 million in the 2024-25 budget**. It is clear that more work needs to be done to convince the Government to act on community concerns about destitution and homelessness among people in the asylum process." Paul Power, CEO Refugee Council (read here)

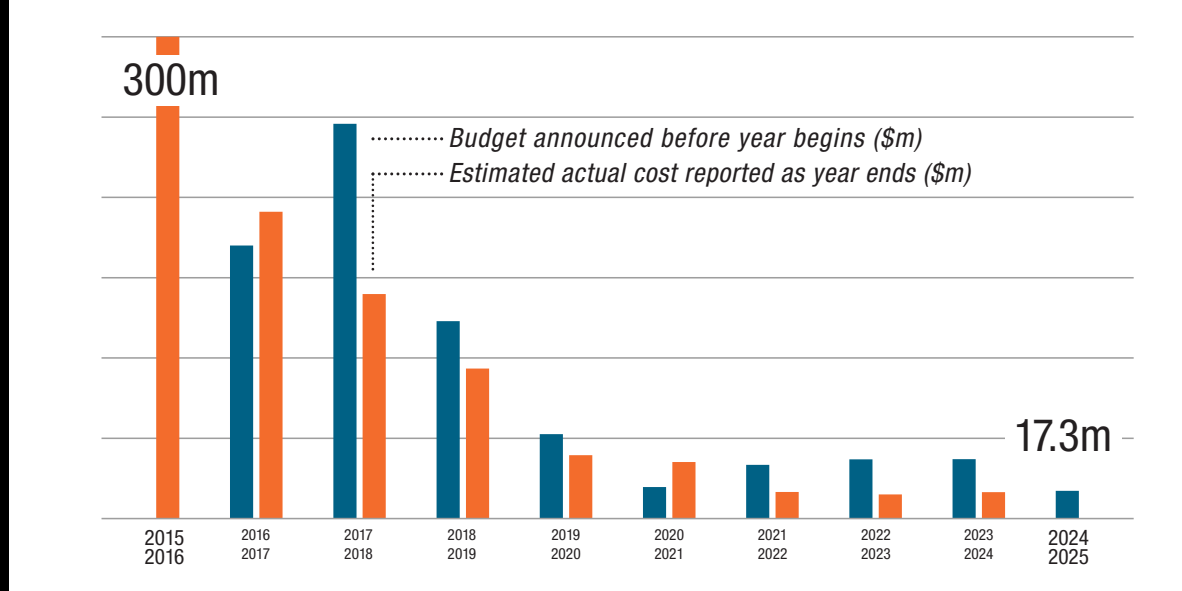
\$17.3 million is the smallest amount in the last 10 years budgeted for the support (via SRSS) of people seeking asylum. It is the latest reduction in a 10-year decrease from a \$300m annual spend (2015-16) to this woeful funding for the year ahead.

Meanwhile, the NSW government has withdrawn from the provision of financial support for destitute asylum seekers, making it clear that it is a federal government responsibility.

Sadly, we remain their only hope.

The Deliberate Erosion of SRSS

Supported by complicated application processes and restricted eligibility



Data from 2024-25 Budget Summary by Refugee Council



A SERVICE PROVIDER RECENTLY SAID:

Thank you so much for the ongoing generosity of Bridge and the work you and your colleagues do in this space, it is life changing



Last year **99.43%** of your donation went directly to our clients. Please download our 2023 Annual Report.

READ HERE

Please donate here

To recent donors: thank you for your latest generous support

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

Bridge for Asylum Seekers Inc. is a registered charity: CFN 25713. Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible. ABN 18 494 407 210.