

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25



Bridge's Key Achievements 2024-2025

The financial year 2024-25 remained a challenge for people seeking asylum with no or very limited means. Affordable rental accommodation continued to be scarce and increased costs of living placed many in danger of homelessness and/or malnutrition. The demand for financial assistance from Bridge for Asylum Seekers (Bridge) remained high, with demand again outstripping supply.

As always, Bridge is extremely grateful to our donors: individuals, philanthropic organisations and the NSW ClubGRANTS program*. We wish to acknowledge their generosity. It allowed us to provide a critical lifeline to those seeking asylum who had no other means of support. Without our donors this would not have been possible.

In 2024-25, Federal Government asylum seeker support (administered by Services Australia) increased slightly to an estimated expenditure of \$20.16 million**. While this amount was up from \$16.4 million in 2023-24, it represented less than 7% of the \$300 million spent in 2015-16[^].

Attempting to provide a basic safety net for those in our community seeking asylum, but destitute and potentially homeless, continues to fall to Bridge and other not-for-profits and their donors.

* The ClubGRANTS scheme is a shared State Government-Club Industry program, funded by a 2.25% gaming machine tax rebate provided by the State Government to those registered clubs with gaming machine profits in excess of \$1 million per annum.

**Source: Refugee Council of Australia 2025-26 budget summary.

[^]In the following financial year the LNP slashed budgets and gutted eligibility criteria. These cuts have continued under Labor.

Providing \$306,854 [\$486,892 in 2023-24] in client support.

Supporting 89 households with living allowances and contributions to rent. These households comprised 148 clients, of whom 37 were children.

Submitting 14 grant applications and completing seven acquittals

Receiving ten grants, some of which had been applied for in the previous financial year

Maintaining low operational costs of \$1,874 (0.61% of total outgoings) thus ensuring direct client support represented 99.39% of expenditure

Raising a total grant /donation income of \$309,023 [\$330,566 in 2023-24[†]] comprising:

\$69,023 Regular and ad hoc donations from individual donors [\$92,409 in 2023-24]

\$182,000 Philanthropic grants [\$238,157 in 2023-24]

\$100,000 The Scully Fund

\$30,000 Collier Charitable Fund

\$20,000 The Handmaid Fund

\$15,000 Sisters of Charity Foundation

\$10,000 The Mercy Foundation

\$5,000 APS Foundation, Brent and Vicki Emmett Giving Fund (*unsolicited*)

\$2,000 Byora Foundation (*unsolicited*)

\$58,000 ClubGRANTS

\$33,000 Bankstown Sports Club

\$15,000 Wests Ashfield

\$10,000 Hornsby RSL

On behalf of our clients, Bridge thanks these donors for making our work possible:

The
**SCULLY
FUND**

Collier
Charitable
Fund

**THE HANDMAID
FUND**



BankstownSports



HORNSBY RSL CLUB

**MERCY
FOUNDATION**

**APS
FOUNDATION**
Brent + Vicki Emmet Giving Fund

**BYORA
FOUNDATION**



Denied a safety net

The LNP slashed budgets and gutted eligibility criteria.

These cuts have continued under Labor.

Numbers of clients assisted with living allowances/rent support

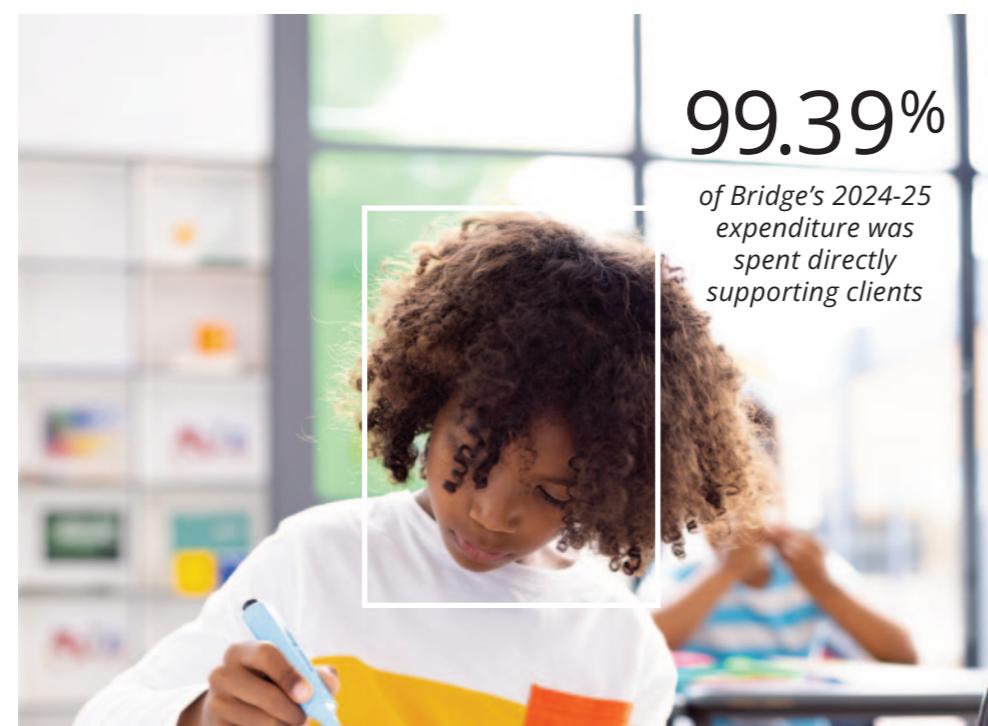
In 2024-25, \$306,854 was spent on client support, specifically living allowances and/or rent assistance for 148 people seeking asylum including 37 children, in 89 households.

Distribution of Bridge funds

The focus for Bridge in 2024-25 was on those asylum seekers with no work rights or unable to work due to trauma (either physical or psychological), ill health, child care needs or a lack of language. With no Federal Government assistance available for any of Bridge's clients, our allowances were essential to prevent people becoming destitute and consequently homeless.

Where do our clients come from?

In 2024-25 our clients came from 31 countries: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Fiji, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine (State of), Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Tanzania (United Republic of), United Arab Emirates and Zimbabwe.



Committee members

The Bridge Management Committee at the end of the financial year 2024-25 comprised: Janet Castle (Chair), Rebecca Ding (Treasurer), Felicia Tesoriero (Secretary), and general committee members Janice Thompson and Brent Sheridan.

All members of the Bridge Committee worked in a voluntary capacity.

Pro bono and volunteer support

Bridge would be unable to keep its non-client costs to 0.61% of its total expenses without the generous support of those providing us with pro-bono services:

Rod Sharples of Datadiction with his ongoing development and maintenance of a donor database that supports our operations

Craig Stokoe of CS Consultancy for developing much of Bridge's messaging, content and design for a range of communications

Michael Garcia of Garcia Group Advisors who, for a peppercorn fee, provides us with audit services

Bartier Perry for their legal advice with regard to our collaboration agreement with the Asylum Seekers Centre (ASC).

We would like to thank Claudia Solin who volunteered with Bridge during the year.

Bridge continues to work in close collaboration with the ASC who provide frontline services for NSW based asylum seekers. We thank staff of ASC for their continued cooperation with Bridge in supporting vulnerable clients.

Janet Castle
Janet Castle

Chair
Bridge for Asylum Seekers Incorporated

3142
people helped during Bridge's 22 years



Bridge for Asylum Seekers Inc

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**Bridge for Asylum Seekers Inc
Responsible Persons' Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025**

Your Committee submit the financial report of Bridge for Asylum Seekers Inc ("the Association") for the year ended 30 June 2025.

Responsible Persons

The names of Responsible Persons at the date of this report are:

Janet Castle	- Chairperson
Rebecca Ding	- Treasurer
Felicia Tesoriero	- Secretary
Janice Thompson	
Brent Sheridan	

Principal Activities

The principal activity of the Association during the financial year was to raise funds to help asylum seekers who have been assessed eligible by the facilitating organisations we have contracted in service agreements, such as the Asylum Seekers Centre in Newtown.

Significant Changes

No significant changes in the nature of the principal activities occurred during the year.

Operating Result

The surplus for the year was \$1,208 (2024: \$156,105 deficit). The Association is exempt from income taxes pursuant to subdivision 50-B of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Responsible Persons.



.....
Janet Castle
Chairperson

Dated: 27th November 2025

Bridge for Asylum Seekers Inc
Auditor's Independence Declaration to the Responsible Persons
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

In accordance with Subdivision 60-C of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, as the audit principal for the audit of the financial statements of Bridge for Asylum Seekers Inc for the year ended 30 June 2025, we declare that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, there have been no contraventions of:

- (a) the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and
- (b) any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Garcia Group Advisors
Chartered Accountants



Michael Garcia
Principal

Registered Company Auditor: 435105

OATLEY NSW 2223

Dated: 27th November 2025

Bridge for Asylum Seekers Inc
Statement of Financial Position
As at 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
Current Assets			
Cash & Cash Equivalents	3	78,398	60,221
Prepayments	4	557	17,526
Total Current Assets		78,955	77,747
Non-Current Assets			
Total Non-Current Assets		0	0
Total Assets		78,955	77,747
Current Liabilities			
Total Current Liabilities		0	0
Non-Current Liabilities			
Total Non-Current Liabilities		0	0
Total Liabilities			
Net Assets		78,955	77,747
Association Funds			
Reserves	5	0	0
Accumulated Surplus		78,955	77,747
Total Association Funds		78,955	77,747

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Bridge for Asylum Seekers Inc
Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
Revenue from Ordinary Activities	2	309,936	332,722
Client Support		(306,854)	(486,892)
Other Administration Expenses		(1,874)	(1,935)
Surplus (Deficit) before income tax		1,208	(156,105)
Income Tax Expense		0	0
Surplus (Deficit) after income tax		1,208	(156,105)
Other Comprehensive Income		0	0
Total comprehensive income attributable to the Accumulated Surplus		1,208	(156,105)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Bridge for Asylum Seekers Inc
Statement of Changes in Equity
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

	Accumulated Surplus \$	Reserves \$	Total Association Funds \$
Balance at 1 July 2023	123,216	110,636	233,852
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(156,105)	0	(156,105)
Transfers from reserves	110,636	(110,636)	0
Transfers to reserves	0	0	0
Balance at 30 June 2024	77,747	0	77,747
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	1,208	0	1,208
Transfers from reserves	0	0	0
Transfers to reserves	0	0	0
Balance at 30 June 2025	78,955	0	78,955

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Reserves		
Restricted Grants Reserve	5	0
Balance at 30 June	0	0

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Bridge for Asylum Seekers Inc
Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Receipts from donors and grants		309,023	330,566
Interest received		934	2,156
Payments to clients and suppliers		(291,780)	(486,848)
Net cash generated by operating activities		18,177	(154,126)
 Cash Flows from Financing Activities			
Funds received from Incorporation of Foundation		0	0
Net cash used in financing activities		0	0
 Net increase / (decrease) in cash held		18,177	(154,126)
Cash at the beginning of the financial year		60,221	214,347
Cash at the end of the financial year		78,398	60,221

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.