



ChangeMakers Refugee Forum

2016-17
Annual
Report





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ChangeMakers Refugee Forum's vision is for New Zealanders from refugee-backgrounds to be participating fully in New Zealand life.

Our Principles

- **Nothing about us without us.** People from refugee-backgrounds should be involved in all stages when policies and services are being developed. Their involvement should be meaningful and respectful of them as the people who will be most affected by those policies and services.
- **Focus on strengths not weaknesses.** Refugees bring knowledge, experience and many different skills to New Zealand. They have much to contribute.
- **A human rights approach** instead of a welfare approach should be the basis for policy development and service delivery.
- **A shared voice is a strong voice.** While we acknowledge the differences and the importance of independence, we also recognise the great value of coming together to work on issues of common concern.

ChangeMakers Board

Ibrahim Omer, Nureddin Abdurahman, Adam Awad, Andrea Goble, Ali Mazraeh, Pakeeza Rasheed, Maureen Zaya

ChangeMakers Staff

Rochelle Stewart-Allen, Lucy Anderson, Ellie Clayton, Naomi Tocher, Kate Twyford, Gerry Westhuis



Message from the Chair

I am pleased to present the 2016/2017 Annual Report for ChangeMakers Refugee Forum. It describes another year of success helping our refugee background communities participate fully in New Zealand life.

As you know, the world is facing the largest humanitarian crisis since 1945. We are proud of New Zealand's commitment to assist the UNHCR to build a better future for refugees, forcibly displaced and stateless people in New Zealand. However, as a country, we can and must do more.

It's time for change and at ChangeMakers we'll be taking a lead in the conversations calling for improvements to settling our refugee background communities.

ChangeMakers is the only umbrella organisation of its kind in Wellington and therefore is a core part of the refugee background landscape. We actively work in partnership with other refugee service providers, central and local government agencies, not-for-profits, community groups, and funders working across the Wellington region. We also work in partnership with other like-minded organisations around the country such as the New Zealand National Refugee Network.

Throughout the year we continued to work with our Leaders Council who are leaders of their respective communities. We meet regularly and work to open up channels for them to share their community's settlement challenges with relevant stakeholders.

This year we had a number of operational changes which affected the day-to-day running of the organisation, however we still continued to successfully deliver our programmes and connect our refugee background communities to essential information and services. As a Board, we've worked hard to set in place strong operational procedures and ensure the stability of the organisation going forward.

Finally, our work is not just theory or policy or research or statistics. For those of us working daily with refugee background communities, we know people as individuals, with real needs, hopes and dreams for themselves and their families.

We hear their stories of courage and challenge. We share their vision to rebuild their lives, to find employment that uses their skills, to see their children educated, to build a safe and comfortable life, and for them and their families to flourish in their new Wellington life.

To arrive as a refugee is not to remain a refugee. At ChangeMakers, we want to start changing the public narrative. Former refugees in New Zealand go on to make a vital contribution to the social and economic fabric of our nation. We work, pay taxes, volunteer, and are active members of society.

We are committed to working towards a new understanding of how refugee background communities contribute to a better New Zealand, and we ask you: please join us.

A shared voice is a strong voice.

Ibrahim Omer
Chair



Message from the General Manager

As Interim General Manager, I have only been on the ChangeMakers journey for the past few months however it's been a pleasure to look back over the 2016/2017 year and review the good work the organisation has achieved.

The organisation celebrated it's 10th anniversary in 2016 and had a fantastic evening of celebration with inspiring speeches, energetic dancing, and opportunity to connect our former refugee communities with our supporters and stakeholders. Particular thanks to Dame Susan Devoy and Grant Robertson for joining us.

The demand for our services continues to grow as more refugee background families and individuals arrive in Wellington. The establishment of new settlement areas in Dunedin and Invercargill are expected to start to relieve some of the pressures on settlement in Wellington. Housing and employment remain core issues that need better solutions for our communities.

As an umbrella organisation for 14 refugee background communities in Wellington, we see ourselves as the bridge between our community members and other service providers. Advocating and representing our communities' voices is a role we take on with great care.

We make the most of the way that Wellington operates 'like a village' which enables us to successfully partner with like-minded organisations who want to play their part in settling refugee background communities into our city. We hope to see more strategic partnerships developing over the coming year.

Special mention to Tayyaba Khan and Mozhdeh Wafa who dedicated so much of their time to manage the organisation over the 2016/2017 year. Thank you for your commitment and many long hours of work. Thanks too to our Advisory Board members who have helped as a sounding board for both managers.

My appreciation to the staff and board who have given so much of their time over the year to enable the organisation to deliver across multiple forums. Your work builds the foundations on which ChangeMakers continues to grow and thrive.

Looking forward, we will have a new strategic plan and a new work programme. It will be an exciting year to come as we clarify and more publicly share the good work we do.

The new permanent General Manager will be on-board early 2018 and I'll looking forward to helping them settle into their role. I'm sure you will warmly welcome them.

Rochelle Stewart-Allen
Interim General Manager

Leaders Council

Our Leaders Council is made up of leader representatives across our 14 refugee background communities. We met regularly with the council members throughout the year to both share and gain core information that helps our communities settle into their Wellington lives.

Our Leaders Council meetings also help ChangeMakers stay up-to-date with issues our communities are facing. We then raise those subjects with other groups we work with such as government or other service providers to work to find solutions.

Going forward, we're looking forward to delivering our first leadership retreat in December 2017 and we're aiming to launch a similar programme for emerging leaders in 2018.

“ChangeMakers has an engaging and supportive team and community, making it a unique learning environment for students. Having the opportunity to be closely involved in such important parts of ChangeMakers' work was very special to me and helpful in developing my practice as a social worker.”

– ChangeMakers Intern, 2016

Celebrating International Women's Day

In March 2017 we celebrated International Women's Day by running a women's cycling day. This was in partnership with Massey University's Centre for Defence and Security Studies.

We brought together more than 40 women from both our own communities and the wider cycling community to teach women how to ride a bike. This fun day included support teams from ReBicycle Wellington, MUD Cycles and Revolve helping the women learn.

The day was such a success that we'll be working with Massey University again in 2018, and the programme is being expanded into other regions.

“It's amazing. It is a big day for me and within a few hours I have started riding a bike. It's thanks to my instructor. She is very good. It's amazing. It's so refreshing and you think, oh you have achieved something. It's amazing.”

– Biking learner, International Women's Day 2017

“[My learner] who's never ridden a bike before, is now riding in loops around the park. I actually can't get her to stop! It's incredible. She said to me at the beginning of the day 'If I can learn to how to do this, it's going to be a life changing thing for me' so it's really special, really awesome to be a part of that.”

– Biking instructor, International Women's Day 2017

Refugees in Business

We ran our Refugees in Business Programme for 7 former refugees wanting to launch their own businesses in Wellington. Local business people provided their expertise and networks to help.

Through the programme we demonstrated the need to help former refugees navigate the business landscape in Wellington and successfully find the support they need. We're now looking at fresh ways to provide this kind of support going forward.



Community Hui and Awaha Info Hubs

Throughout the year we regularly provided community forums and hui to help share relevant information to former refugees settling into Wellington. We provided interpreters to ensure that essential information was easily understood by our community members.

We continued to run our Know Your Rights sessions in partnership with the Wellington Community Justice Project from Victoria University. These workshops were open to all community members and covered a diverse range of topics including social housing, tax and human rights.

ChangeMakers' weekly Awaha Info Hubs ran in Wellington initially and we added the Hutt this year. These drop-in centres aim to encourage and increase social participation of community members. They're also a place for us to provide support and advice about accessing services.

Our community members who attended the Awaha Hubs received one-on-one support with issues in areas such as immigration, employment, housing, mental health and counselling. We also advocated for their needs with relevant service providers.

Learning to Drive Programmes

As you can imagine or know personally, learning to drive can be difficult without a car or a person to help teach driving skills.

We have continued to run our Turning the Curve Women's Drivers Programme for its 6th year. The Programme helps women from first learning to drive right through to gaining their full licence. During the year we had 68 women on the programme, with 13 gaining their full licences and 8 achieving their restricted licences.

At the start of this year, we launched our second driving programme – the Refugee Driver Training (Open Road) Programme in Wellington.

This programme supported 17 men and women to work towards gaining their Restricted Licence. With a focus on Wellington so far, next year we'll be moving the programme to Porirua to provide opportunity for people based there to get their licences.

“It's a good programme because the driving school, volunteers, and ChangeMakers have all helped me get my licence. I wouldn't get my licence without the programme.”

– Driving learner, Turning the Curve Programme, 2016

“The sponsor gives the money for the lessons and we don't even know them. I won't forget the help they have given to us, it's not about the money, not about being on the road, but they have given their heart.”

– Driving learner, Turning the Curve Programme, 2016



Internships

We regularly host interns at ChangeMakers and hosted 6 over the 2016/2017 year from New Zealand and the United States.

Our interns came from refugee backgrounds or were studying in professions such as social work or development studies. Most looked for direct experience working with refugee background communities where they can take that knowledge into their future careers.

“ I haven't been able to stop talking about all the amazing work I was able to be a part of. Working with you helped me take my skills to another level and definitely developed my leadership skills and upped my productivity. ”

– ChangeMakers Intern, 2016

Life at ChangeMakers Refugee Forum

The ChangeMakers Board comprises between 7 and 10 members approved at the Annual General Meeting to carry out objectives and powers of the Society. Board members are elected by the members of ChangeMakers at the Annual General Meeting (or a Special Meeting if necessary).

ChangeMakers has a small team of 5 part-time staff that are the engine room that makes the organisation achieve over and above what we're resourced for. We couldn't achieve as much as we do without their ongoing commitment and passion to see our refugee background communities settled well into Wellington.

We also have more than 150 volunteers who generously contribute their time to help not only in our office but assist our events and programmes to run smoothly. They are dedicated to sharing both their helping hands and their expertise to our communities to help them settle here.

Welcome

Staff: Mozhdeh Wafa, Lucy Anderson, Gerry Westhuis

Farewell

Board: Margaret John, Mozhdeh Wafa

Staff: Tayyaba Khan, Sharon Hillock

www.crf.org.nz/our-people

Awards

2017 Nominee – Get on Yer Bike Award, Bike to the Future Awards, NZ Transport Authority

2017 Nominee – Health and Wellbeing Category, Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards



Looking Ahead

The Board is working with our core supporters to create a new strategic plan in 2017. We want to make sure that the organisation represents what our communities want and need, something which is constantly shifting and changing as new communities arrive in New Zealand.

We will have 5 new strategic objectives which will guide our work going forward which we'll be launching in November 2017.

We're launching our new leadership development programme for our Leaders Council in the second half of 2017. This will include a leadership retreat and an ongoing peer-to-peer mentoring programme. We're partnering with LEAD Centre for Not for Profit Leadership on this project.

We're also aiming to launch a similar emerging leaders programme in 2018.

Members

Group members

- Afghan Association of Wellington
- Assyrian Association of NZ Incorporated
- Eritrean Community in Wellington NZ Incorporated
- Ethiopian Community in Wellington Incorporated
- Greater Wellington Oromo Community Incorporated
- Polish Association in NZ Incorporated
- Rwandan Association Umubano
- Wellington Myanmar Community Incorporated
- Wellington Somali Council
- Zomi Innkuan NZ

Associate members

- Columbian community
- Sudanese community
- Tamil community
- Ugandan community

Our Funders

- COGS (Community Organisations Grant Scheme)
- Community Trust of Wellington
- Good Shepherd NZ Trust
- St Andrews on the Terrace
- Trust House Ltd
- Private donors

Service Delivery Contracts

- Immigration NZ (MBIE) – Strengthening Refugee Voices
- Immigration NZ (MBIE) – Refugee Driver Training Programme

ChangeMakers Refugee Forum (Incorporated)
Statement of Financial Position
As at 30 June 2017

	2017	2016
Assets		
Current Assets		
Bank accounts and cash	178,629	182,689
Receivables and prepayments	-	36,531
Total Current Assets	178,629	219,220
Non-Current Assets		
Plant and equipment	3,371	2,909
Total Non-Current Assets	3,371	2,909
Total Assets	182,000	222,129
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	16,140	13,433
Employee costs payable	12,638	4,874
Unused grants with conditions	34,084	23,783
Total Current Liabilities	62,862	42,090
Total Liabilities	62,862	42,090
Total Assets Less Total Liabilities (Net Assets)	119,138	180,039
Equity		
Accumulated funds	119,138	180,039
Total Equity	119,138	180,039

ChangeMakers Refugee Forum (Incorporated)
Statement of Financial Performance
For the year ended 30 June 2017

	2017	2016
Revenue		
Donations, fundraising and similar revenue	107,378	173,971
Fees and other revenue from members	126	287
Revenue from providing goods and services	94,583	138,920
Investment income	1,542	2,634
Other income	-	-
Total Revenue	203,629	315,812
Expenses		
Expenses related to public fundraising	178	87
Volunteer and employee related costs	160,689	143,694
Costs of providing goods and services	60,807	49,132
Grants or donations made	1,000	250
Other expenses	41,856	36,892
Total Expenses	264,530	230,055
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	(60,901)	85,757

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Charities Registration number: CC28377