



ChangeMakers
Resettlement Forum

Office Opening Hours:

9.00am – 5.00pm

Monday, Wednesday and
Friday

Office Contact Details:

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38 Webb Street

Mt Cook

Wellington

Website:

ChangeMakers
Resettlement Forum

Facebook:

Changemakersrefugeeforum

Whatsapp:

CRF Community
Noticeboard

Monthly Newsletter

May 2022

Update from Jacqs

Kia Ora everyone

It has been wonderful catching up with so many members of our communities since we have gone into the Orange Traffic Light setting, and great to see people feeling confident and comfortable to get out and about. However, please do remember that COVID-19 is still out there in the community, and we need to continue with mask wearing, sanitising, and staying at home if unwell. Remember also that if you test positive you can get support through the 0800 COVID number (below) or through getting in touch with us directly. We have shared a bunch of videos of staff and community members talking about the vaccination experiences in their mother languages on facebook over the past few weeks. Please encourage people who may still be hesitant about the vaccine to have a listen to the experience in their mother language...it may provide comfort.

Our Eritrean Communities have recently celebrated their Independence Day, both in Wellington and Christchurch, and our African Communities have celebrated Africa Day with a week of events celebrating African Unity and the many cultures and peoples of Africa.

Sadly we say goodbye to Clench Enoka this week as she heads off to be with her family in Australia. Clench has been our part-time Office Coordinator and carried out our COVID -19 Video work over the last 12 months and will be missed. All the best Clench, go well and stay in touch.

We are taking applications for the part-time Office Coordinator role. Contact me via email for further information and an application form and job description.

Please take care out there, enjoy the upcoming long weekend.

Jacqs 😊



New Zealanders of refugee background participating fully in life in Aotearoa New Zealand

Nothing About Us Without Us

A human Rights Approach

Focus On Strengths Not Weaknesses

A Shared Voice is A Strong Voice

Board Update

The board discussed ChangeMakers' (CRF) involvement and support for the Safe Start, Fair Future Parliament Event hosted in Parliament by the Centre for Asia Pacific Refugee Studies. The event focussed on supporting asylum seekers in Aotearoa New Zealand and their experiences in settlement. The board also discussed the Regional Change Plan Workshops of which a board member attended, and also discussed the Wellington Regional Workforce plan and key challenges that arise for refugee background people in employment and what CRF is generally doing in this space. The board also passed the Abuse and Protection Changemakers policy. The board discussed the upcoming May session for CRF staff and board to meet with officials from MSD and E Tu Whanau to discuss the relationship of CRF and Tangata Whenua and how to start and nurture the ongoing relationship. Noella Ishimwe attended this board meeting as a shadow board member.

Please remember you can place feedback in the feedback box on the cabinet just inside the office and also contact our board chair, Shahd, at shahd.elmatary@hotmail.co.nz

What's been happening:

Welcoming the newer Afghan Evacuees

A couple of weeks ago held a gathering to connect new arrivals from Afghanistan with some of their settled community, volunteers, CRF staff



and organisations we work alongside. What a great get together...many connections were made and learning shared. Thanks for fantastic organisation Rahela, to those in the team that assisted and to Sisters of Compassion for the use of an outstanding venue



Winners of the Parliamentary Class of 2020 Budget Day donation

ChangeMakers were drawn from the Parliamentary Class of 2020 Budget Day donation a couple of weeks ago and received \$500. Heartfelt gratitude to Ibrahim Omer for placing putting us in the hat as the charity he supports and states is 'very close to my heart', and to the Parliamentary Class of 2020 for the funds.

Bits n Pieces

ChangeMakers is delighted to share that a dual control car has been kindly gifted to Turning The Curve by Naomi Tocher and her brothers, on behalf of her father Bernard Weinstein (1926-2021).

Bernard loved to drive and believed everyone should learn. He was a keen supporter of Turning The Curve when Naomi was coordinating the programme.

The car will help getting the driver through their initial lessons before they can practice in their own cars with a volunteer. Thanks to the car and our amazing driving instructor George, drivers will not have to wait anymore and will benefit from his vast knowledge and experience. Our warmest thanks from everyone at ChangeMakers and on the programme to Naomi, Simon, Gary and Bernard!



What's been happening continued...

Cooking Collective

In response to the many community members wanting to use their cooking skills for micro business, and as part of our community development work, we



paired up with Pathways to Employment to offer a NZQA Food Safety and Hygiene Course.

The course, held at Sisters of Compassion, had a total of 15 attendees from a wide range of our communities, all of whom completed their certificates.

If you are interested in participating in a NZQA Food Safety and Hygiene course, please get in touch with Hafsar on Hafsar.tameesuddin@crf.org.nz or on 020 4113 0531 (text, phone, whatsapp)



MOU with Catholic Social Services

It was with delight that we signed off a Memorandum Of Understanding with Catholic Social Services over the last month. This is to consolidate the work we have been carrying out with CSS over the last 8 months and to ensure strong, empowering and grassroots informed collaboration going forward as we work on our Befriender volunteer programme.



From the Sector...

Safe Start, Fair Future

CRF community members, team members and a board member attended the launch of the Safe Start, Fair Start report to government.

The Report calls for equal access to support for Convention Refugees, regardless of how they have come to arrive in Aotearoa New Zealand. Additionally, the report calls for the assurance of appropriate support for people seeking asylum during the refugee status determination period.

Our own Hafsar was one of the panelists and spoke of the fact that what the report highlights as necessary are also stated in articles of the 1951 Refugee Convention.

What's been happening continued...

Train the Trainer



Hafsar worked with Howard from Literacy Aotearoa to get the 'Train the Trainers' Advanced Drivers License course carried out during the last school holidays. Six community members participated and completed the course and are now able to facilitate the Mother Language Learners Licence courses we will be running over the next year.

We hope to hold at least one course for each of the participant communities, which will see 60 extra people gain their learners drivers licenses and be able to start practicing their driving while they are still developing their English language skills. Thanks so much to the participants and a special thanks to the team from Literacy Aotearoa for being so flexible about putting this course together for us and at times that worked for our community members.



Africa Week 2022

African Communities Council of Wellington held a fabulous Africa Day and African Women's night. It was fabulous to see so many of our African community members participating by attending, performing, sharing food, or sharing their voices. Congratulations to the team at ACCW for a wonderful few events to celebrate the unity of African nations.



From the Sector...

The Refugee Advisory Panel is coming together, and they are really keen to have representation from Wellington, as Wellington often doesn't participate in these things. ChangeMakers would also love to have Wellington Voices shared. We currently have one of our community members applying, but would love to see more...and are happy to support appropriate applicants from our refugee background communities with a reference and also assist with writing your applications. Contact Jacqs if you are keen and need support.

Coming Up...

World Refugee Day

We will be acknowledging World Refugee Day with a celebration of the diversity that our refugee background communities bring to our region and how our communities participate and contribute if provided with appropriate support. This event will take place on Saturday 18th June from 11.30am to 3.30pm at South Wellington Intermediate School and will be free entry, food

We are now taking registrations for craft stalls from our refugee background community members...please contact Judah on Judah.seomeng@crf.org.nz or text/whatsapp on 022 065 7831



World Refugee Day

"Whoever, Wherever, Whenever, Everyone has the right to seek safety"

ChangeMakers invites you to celebrate World Refugee Day

When: Saturday 18th June | 11:30 am – 3:30 pm
Address: South Wellington Intermediate School- 30 Te Wharepouri Street, Behampore

Children Activities, Cultural Food, Photo Exhibition, and Interactive Cultural Performance

With support from

Free Entry



REFUGEE ADVISORY PANEL 2022

Refugees & former refugees working to effectively & meaningfully participate in refugee settlement strategies & policies in Aotearoa

[LEARN MORE](#) [READ FAQs](#) [APPLY NOW](#)

This proposal was made possible through the collaborative efforts of Refugee Seeking Local Access at the Table (RSLAT), Interim Advisory Group (Refugees & former refugees), Centre for Asia Pacific Refugee Studies & Immigration New Zealand
Contact: nzrap@refugeesecan.org

#NZRAP2022

COVID Notices...

A reminder that if you have COVID-19 you need to self-isolate for 7 days.

There is support for food and welfare if you need it while self isolating. Please contact the number below or contact us at ChangeMakers

COVID SUPPORT

Positive COVID Case?

Self-Isolating?

Need help with food or welfare needs?

Call **0800 512 337** to seek assistance.

ChangeMakers have masks and RAT tests for our communities should they need them...please get in touch.

Coming up...

Understanding Kiwi Education

Our first session of Understanding Kiwi Education was held on Saturday at Wellington East Girls College, with Mona Williams facilitating and Pride Lands providing children's activities while the parents were busy.

While the numbers were small, the feedback has been that the session was very helpful and that people learnt a lot and also enjoyed themselves.

We have four sessions left, so please get in touch if you are keen to know how you can help your children's education experience be the best. Contact Jacqs at Jacqueline.wilton@crf.org.nz or text 022 457 6839 to register.



A central illustration of a diverse group of children is surrounded by several speech bubbles containing text about the program's activities and benefits.

- Learning outside the classroom: camps, sports, clubs, trips
- Sharing cultures: A day at school
- Supporting your children: Parent-teacher interviews, Time management, Home and school cultures
- \$100 petrol voucher per family for attending all 5 sessions
- Afternoon tea and children's activities provided
- Safety and Wellbeing: Digital Safety, Bullying/discrimination... who to talk to
- The board: What it does - become a board member

28 May & 4, 11, 25 June & 2 July
12.30pm - 4.30pm
Wellington East Girls College

For information or to register contact Jacqs
jacqueline.wilton@crf.org.nz or 022 457 6839

ChangeMakers Reconciliation Forum

Buddy Day for our Youth

We have the first of our youth gatherings coming up in a couple of weeks. This one is for youth aged 14 to 30. Contact Kodrean to register and he will confirm venue with you closer to the get-together.



A poster for 'BUDDY DAY' featuring a central illustration of a group of diverse youth. To the right of the illustration are icons for a pizza, a soccer ball, a basketball, musical notes, and a gift box.

BUDDY DAY

FUN FUN FUN!

FOOD & GAMES

MAKE NEW FRIENDS

Saturday 11th June

3:00-6:00pm

Register your name by:

Text or Call: 022 6123240

Email: Kodrean.Eashae@crf.org.nz

ChangeMakers Reconciliation Forum

Thank you to our funders, supporters, and volunteers

It is with the support of the following organisations, as well as a lot of individuals that donate or volunteer with us, that we are able to work towards our missions of “New Zealanders from refugee backgrounds participating fully in Aotearoa new Zealand life” . We also send out a special thanks to Red Cross, Catholic Social Service, Sisters of Compassion and CCDHB for the immense amount of support they are providing to our communities and our work

