



# Bridge for Asylum Seekers Foundation

UnitingCare NSW.ACT

Newsletter  
May 2006

Honorary Chairperson:  
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## Financial Crisis — Funds Run Dry in October

In spite of the success of our Building Bridges fundraiser in March, which contributed over \$40,000 to our coffers, Bridge for Asylum Seekers Foundation is in a parlous financial position. At the last management committee meeting it was agreed that we would not be able to assist any new applicants on a Bridging Visa E (BVE) unless were we able to raise urgently needed funds.

The management committee has been hoping for changes to the conditions for asylum seekers on BVEs — these have not eventuated. We are aware that some asylum seekers are being given work rights for short periods. This is a positive step; however, many of the people we assist have been traumatised by their periods in detention and badly affected by the time they have spent in the community without anything to do. In many cases they are not able to find suitable work and employers are often unwilling to employ somebody who is uncertain of his or her future plans.

Although I have only recently — following a double knee replacement operation — returned to my role of Honorary Chairperson of the Foundation, I have been closely following all the work which has

been carried out during my lengthy absence in hospital, rehab and recuperating with a friend.

We are still supporting almost 100 people, including 25 children! All of these people would be in great danger if forced to return to their home countries of Korea, China, Vietnam, West Papua, Aceh, Burma, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan, the Congo, Uganda, Nigeria, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Algeria, Kuwait, Iran, Iraq and Colombia. These people depend on BASF for money to buy food and clothing and to pay for transport and for urgent medical expenses. They have no other means of financial support, and this support will end unless we receive further donations.

We therefore have no option but to ask if you could possibly once again open your hearts — and your chequebooks — to send an additional contribution to these very needy people. Our donation form is below. **Please note that from June 5 our mailing address will be PO Box 829, Five Dock NSW 2046 .**

Yours sincerely,  
*Virginia Walker*  
Honorary Chairperson.

## BUILDING BRIDGES

BASF would like to thank everyone who supported Building Bridges, the event we held at Sydney Town Hall in March this year.

There were over 900 people there on the night and we raised over \$40,000.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped on the night and to all of you who came along to support BASF.

Special thanks to Julie McCrossin, Julian Burnside QC, Marion Lê, Cheikh Kone and John Doyle for their very special contributions.

Also to Didjeridu Dingo, Pat Drummond, Mick Hamilton, Hat Trick, Michael Fix and Sacha Kaless for providing fantastic entertainment on the night.

### Bridge for Asylum Seekers Foundation

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Yes, I would like to help the Bridge for Asylum Seekers Foundation provide direct support for Bridging Visa E and special category refugees and lobby for their better treatment. Please send me:

- More information about Bridge for Asylum Seekers Foundation
- Information about direct bank or credit card debits for regular donations

I enclose a cheque / money order / credit card details for a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle: Visa / MasterCard / Bankcard

Card Number	Exp. date
Signature	
Name	Address
Phone	
Email	

We urgently need DENTISTS (and doctors, psychiatrists, lawyers and just plain friends) to do pro bono work, research cases, sell raffle tickets or help at community fairs.