About us
HOST International is an Australian not-for-profit organisation that works with displaced people on their journey from crisis to protection, stability, and ‘a better life’.

HOST International is focused on working to create new thinking, different ways of working, and collaborative partnerships. We operate in a holistic way to ensure that individuals and communities get access to the right support at the right time, in a way that promotes thriving and self-reliant communities.

We see our work at three levels:

1. Working with individuals
   Work with individuals to promote integration and wellbeing whilst establishing greater self-agency

2. Working with communities
   Work with communities to resolve structural barriers to integration and to ensure a welcoming approach

3. Working globally
   Work with others to promote the pursuit of alternative ways of thinking about refugee protection

HOST looks forward to consolidating our growth and impact with a focus on sustainability in the coming year.

MESSAGE FROM THE
Chairperson

HOST was registered as a not-for-profit company in December 2016 with the intention of securing a contract to deliver community integration and development services in Nauru under the Australian offshore processing arrangement.

As we approach the end of the contract, we can reflect on having successfully accomplished the priorities outlined in our strategic plan which includes continuing to grow and develop our services in New Zealand and Malaysia. By the end of the year, we have expanded our South East Asian presence by establishing a small team in Thailand and have sought out alternative ways to keep families and children out of detention. Our New Zealand work with resettled refugees at the end of their migrant journey has revealed an untapped talent pool that matches many of the skill shortage areas that these local communities face. HOST has continued to grow in the right direction by developing genuine and strategic partnerships with organisations that are aligned with our vision and have potential to broaden our influence, scope and capacity.

We were established to improve the lives of displaced people who are on their journey towards a better life and to develop the capacity of the communities that host them. We have steadily built upon another year of accomplishments under the guidance of our CEO David Keegan, and we look forward to continuing to deliver the best possible, evidence-based and innovative services in the region.

In its second year of operation, HOST International has had an exciting year of achievements from our staff, the communities we work with, and the new partnerships we’ve built.

Dr Scott Trueman
Chairperson
Following an intense but successful start up year, 2018 was a year for refining our vision and establishing demonstration projects in new places throughout the Asia Pacific.

This saw us investing in activities that expanded our footprint and operational partnerships into Thailand and Indonesia as well as strengthening our initial work in Malaysia and New Zealand. We were also successful in securing a new project to support refugee communities in Adelaide under the Settlement Engagement and Transitional Support (SETS) program. This meant that by the end of 2018 we were operating in 6 countries throughout the Asia Pacific with a turnover of AUD$18.6million and just over 100 staff consisting of expat, refugee and local employees.

We have worked hard to develop our organisational systems to support our operational efficiency and to prepare for a future model that can easily scale to new locations and continue to support our partnership model. We believe that by working with local partners we will create sustainable outcomes for communities and achieve more in short periods. Therefore, where possible we have sought to leverage our expertise in specialist support services, community development and contract administration with local knowledge, relationships and context from partners. To support this we have also invested in monitoring and evaluation expertise to ensure that we have a measurable understanding of our impact. In 2018 we also moved to establish a separate subsidiary charity in New Zealand and with the introduction of a project in Adelaide, we have started to further consider opportunities to make an impact in Australia. To this end we determined to invest in a new activity aiming to facilitate movements from cities to regional and rural parts of Australia.

We also sought to establish a number of demonstration projects throughout the region to illustrate our commitment to practical solutions. These included launching the CandleLighters project to share skilled staff with partner organisations, running a workshop on innovation in refugee protection at the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Conference in Bangkok, delivering training on Asset Based Community Development for HOST staff and partners, and continuing to support Project StandUp in Malaysia to drive grassroots change on gender norms in refugee communities.

I am proud of the achievements that HOST has made in its first two years and look forward to the next phase as we prepare to exit Nauru in May 2019. I want to thank my fellow directors for their generosity and support on this journey and also our partners for their willingness to join us in creating better outcomes for displaced people all over the region.
Philippe Legrain visits New Zealand

HOST International brought British economist and writer Philippe Legrain to New Zealand between 6 - 10 August 2018. The focus on Philippe’s visit was to raise the public narrative of the economic benefits of welcoming and employing refugees, which included Philippe presenting his research conducted with the TENT Foundation.

Philippe spoke at public and private events in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. His visit included media appearances and opinion pieces, and a Parliamentary Breakfast hosted by Hon Grant Robertson, Minister of Finance. Philippe’s public talks started to positively influence how mainstream media tells the resettlement story and opened doors with employers interested in learning more about this untapped talent pool.

As co-founder of the OPEN think-tank, Philippe has been actively working to demonstrate how former refugees positively contribute to local economies. Philippe Legrain’s message is that welcoming refugees is not just a humanitarian and legal obligation, but it is an investment that can yield many economic dividends. His research shows that investing one euro – or dollar – in welcoming refugees can yield nearly two in economic benefits within just five years.

Former refugees contribute economically as workers, entrepreneurs, innovators, consumers, taxpayers and investors. While welcoming former refugees requires an initial investment – typically through government funding – this tends to be spent on local goods and services which again contributes to the wider economy.

Philippe says his message to business people is “By all means help refugees as part of your social responsibility, but also employ refugees because it’s good for your business. They’re likely to be hardworking, highly motivated workers and you will benefit from it.”

Higher skilled former refugees fill skills shortages and with 30 per cent of newly arrived refugees in New Zealand holding a professional qualification, they present opportunity to fill some of the roles that businesses struggle to fill. The reality is that former refugees are also highly motivated to get their lives back on track, and some will fill roles that local people often overlook such as farm work, cleaning offices or caring for the elderly which are vital for the economy.

Enterprising refugees will also start businesses that create wealth, employ locals, boost growth, and stimulate trade and investment.

“Investing one euro – or dollar – in welcoming refugees can yield nearly two in economic benefits within just five years.”
January
HOST opens New Zealand and Malaysia offices.

February
We issued our first microfinance loan to an inspiring entrepreneur/former refugee in New Zealand.

May
Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Multicultural NZ, a non-profit umbrella organisation representing migrants & refugees in New Zealand.

October
Presented at the International Metropolis Conference in Sydney on a model aimed at moving people from a state of dependence to self-reliance.

June
HOST NZ celebrates World Refugee Day in Wellington, where the contributions former refugees make to the community were showcased and the work our local community members are doing in the field was recognised.

November
Awarded funding to deliver capacity building services to emerging migrant communities in Adelaide, South Australia. It involves supporting ethno-specific organisations to establish sustainable practices that enable them to better serve their communities and support effective settlement. Project is due to commence July 2019.

December
Project Stand Up formally launches app and education program at the Australian High Commission in Malaysia. PSU is co-designed and run by a team of refugee youth to challenge gender norms and educate refugee communities on gender equality.

May
We partnered with Refugee Talent to provide employment opportunities to refugees in the Asia Pacific region, with support from Humanitarian Innovation Fund, TrustLaw and Nokia.
Where we work

In 2018 we have been working to make life better for displaced people in the Asia Pacific region.

Australia

01

19

Our head office in Australia supports good governance, financial integrity and operational leadership.

New Zealand

02

3

HOST is focused on innovative employment and resettlement solutions for former refugees in NZ. We have also been working with non-profit, business and government organisations to ensure innovative and targeted solutions to resettlement are underway.

Nauru

03

HOST provides casework for highly vulnerable refugees, employment and vocational education placement for refugees, as well as community and capacity development.

South-East Asia

04

3

HOST has been working with local NGOs and government to help find alternatives to detention and to work alongside local host communities to design and implement practical solutions to the needs of refugees in long term displacement.
“Our students are creative, determined and grateful for the education and community. We are very grateful for the support provided by Little Things and HOST International and hope to continue the relationship.”

Dr Sally Hirsch,
General Manager at IDEAS Academy

Fostering humanity, hope & dignity
HOST works with individuals to develop wellbeing and to facilitate effective community integration.

**“I am sure my experiences at HOST International will help me in any future career. In addition to the courses and education opportunities which HOST has provided me - such as community services, employment services, mental health first-aid - I have learnt a lot there.”**

Elahe Z., Community Engagement Advisor

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**NAURU SETTLEMENT SERVICES**

In 2018 HOST continued its operations in the Nauru community. This work involves working with the Nauruan and refugee community to facilitate full community participation while refugees await resettlement. Our services include targeted case management, employment support services and community development activities. The following data outlines key outputs from this work.

**Case management**

Our case management services focus on providing specialist support to refugees who are not coping well in Nauru due to psychological or medical health needs. We also support refugees who are transferring to resettlement or for medical treatment. We focus on practical strategies that are trauma informed and aim to promote self-reliance and wellbeing.

241 cases including 402 individuals

185 female and 217 male clients

855 individuals supported to leave Nauru for Australia & US

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**Employment services**

Our employment services in Nauru focuses on getting people into local jobs and preparing them for future work through training and work experience.

**New clients registered for Employment Support**

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<tr>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
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**Clients referred to vacancies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>113</td>
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**Clients placed in employment**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>111</td>
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**Clients assisted into self-employment**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
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**Clients referred to education/course**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
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**Contacts made with clients and job seekers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1680</td>
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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Our community development services are focused on creating constructive dialogue between refugee and Nauruan community members to facilitate effective integration and resolution of community issues. This team also organises events that promote inclusion and celebration of mixed cultures.

Christmas Eve
24 December 2018
In partnership with the Government of Nauru, we hosted our annual Christmas event which had a huge turn out of approximately 4,000 people. HOST provided operational support on the day, handed out 2,000 Santa gift sacks to local children.

Angam Day
26 October 2018
It was a day of celebration and reflection as ‘angam’ means jubilation. HOST facilitated a marquee stall that included cultural foods such as bread, fruit, marinated BBQ chicken and coconut water. The day was a huge success with full participation from all our staff.

Nowruz Celebration
21 March 2018
We celebrated the Iranian New Year and the HOST team had plenty of cultural foods such as fish, rice cookies, cherries, flower seeds and other symbolic decorations. Approximately 30 people attended the event, all from a mixture of cultures including Nauruans and expats.

“HOST International’s approach to working with community organisations to support refugees has supported Payong in successfully expanding our programmes to reach more refugees in Malaysia. Having a Candlelighter volunteer placed with us in 2018 was key to the success of our ability to expand and implement community empowerment and resilient programmes during our first year as a United Nations High Commissioner (UNHCR) implementation partner in Malaysia.”

Deborah Henry, Payong

“I want to always be up-skilling my knowledge and be understanding when working with people that require support. I have learned through case management that there are so many things that I previously wasn’t aware of and for that, I’m glad to be a part of HOST International.”

Rosemary Bop, Case Manager

Working with communities
The CandleLighters programme was established by HOST International to scale or activate opportunities for refugees in developing countries through skilled volunteers. Volunteers are placed with a partner organisation on a six-month assignment with a focus on building capacity and scaling initiatives through networking and professional services.

Jason Spierings spent nine months as a CandleLighter in Kuala Lumpur in what was originally a six-month placement. He was placed with Payong, a Malaysian NGO that supports refugees through different education, protection, and livelihoods projects. He was initially based at their flagship programme, the Fugee School, an informal school for refugee children and youth. Jason supported the UNHCR in mapping the refugee learning centres in Malaysia that were providing some form of secondary education and undertaking an assessment of their needs, capabilities and aspirations for the refugee education sector. He also assisted Project Stand Up, an initiative of students from refugee backgrounds in Malaysia who are seeking to solve gender equality problems, especially on breaking barriers to education for girls and young women.

Jason also joined partner Same Skies’ Transformative Leadership in Action program, where he worked with like-minded individuals and started a crowd-funding campaign to develop a new service for refugees, the Refugee Network Centre. Jason extended his placement for an additional three months to support Payong with their community-based protection and livelihoods projects. This involved him working with the Rohingya Society in Malaysia to develop a plan towards the running costs of their women’s transitional home for survivors of gender-based violence. Jason also supported Payong to expand their work from Kuala Lumpur to Penang, where they consulted and trained aspiring project leaders from the Rohingya community to develop their own solutions to some of the needs of the refugee community.

By the end of his placement Jason had undertaken extensive research and produced a report on the secondary education for refugees in Malaysia. “CandleLighters was a great way to gain hands-on experience in an overseas context and work directly with communities that support displaced people.”

Jason Spierings

Our CandleLighters volunteer, Zoe Stewart, lead a project focused on developing a basic monitoring and evaluation framework for SUKA’s foster care work. SUKA Society is a non-profit organisation in Malaysia that works to protect and preserve the best interests of children. Zoe supported the development of a resource kit and training package for other services interested in setting up foster care. She was also involved in delivering training on case management and providing advice and support to the leadership of SUKA and assisting to review their programmes with children.
PROJECT STAND UP
HOST International partnered with Teach 4 Refugees, an organisation that provides educational opportunities to young refugees in Malaysia to develop Project Stand Up (PSU). It is a youth-driven platform made up of students from Libya, Somalia and Yemen focused on improving access to education for refugees, particularly girls.

With no prior design experience, the students from PSU took design-centred workshops and worked towards expanding their knowledge of gender equality. When they heard that girls were missing out on opportunities to attend school because they had to tend to household duties, they developed the app and community education programme to address this in an innovative way.

In December, the app was officially launched at the Australian Embassy in Kuala Lumpur. The event was a huge success with the students presenting their project to the audience who were very impressed with their public speaking skills and what they have achieved to date. The app was soon released to the community and made available on the Google Play Store. Families have started using the app and PSU is continuing to promote the second phase of the roll out to the rest of the community such as to schools and teachers. Project Stand Up is funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) in partnership with MIKTA and the innovationXchange.

LITTLE THINGS
From little things, big things grow… that is the philosophy behind the Little Things fund, which provides small grants to under-resourced, grass-roots projects making lives better for refugees around the world. Little Things is an innovative staff-led project which allowed three projects to each receive $5,000.

Asylum Access Malaysia
Asylum Access Malaysia provides legal services to refugees and asylum seekers and with a Little Things grant, they were able to develop and launch an Employment Dispute resolution programme as a part of their interim protection services. Through the programme they were able to reach clients, coordinate consultations between refugees and pro-bono lawyers, and then pursue avenues for addressing the refugees’ specific concern. This pilot has proven that even refugees that lack government-issued legal status can find ways to access justice in the face of exploitation and discrimination. During the six-month pilot phase, they had five cases receive unpaid wages and four cases are still pending a resolution.

https://asylumaccess.org/program/malaysia/

IDEAS Academy
IDEAS Academy believes that every child deserves an education, regardless of their race, background, or immigration status. Many school-aged refugee children cannot get access to basic education but IDEAS Academy provides an alternative solution. The school was launched after two years of fundraising and donations and has since grown to over 100 students. The Academy is now housed in a five-story building, multiple classrooms for up to 300 students and equipped with an IT room, library, and canteen. With the Little Things grant, the Academy has upgraded the quality of the meals they serve the students. When a group of volunteer doctors examined the students and diagnosed them as anaemic, it was vital that the students’ nutritional intake be improved. The students are no longer anaemic and continue to consume healthy, nutritious meals at the canteen. https://www.ideasacademy.org.my/

Refugees and Asylum Seekers Information Centre (RAIC), Refugee Eye Clinic
RAIC is an organisation founded and led by refugees in Jakarta to provide health, legal and other essential support to refugees in Indonesia. They used their Little Things grant to cover the cost of five mobile Refugee Eye Clinic events. The clinic launched in May 2018, where eye medication and glasses were provided to approximately 50 refugees. The programme was held monthly and at different locations, so that a wide range of refugee communities could be assessed.

In addition to eyesight problems, many patients had symptoms including itching and eye infections. For additional clinics in the future, they plan to provide surgeries for those who need it inside the eye specialist’s clinic. There is currently a waiting list of more than 6,500 refugees who need these services. The five clinics held across the year were a success and there is certainly a need to continue to expand. http://raicindonesia.org/

TRAINING
HOST maintains a commitment to building the capacity of local communities to provide services to displaced people and resettled communities. In addition to CandleLighters and Little Things, HOST has invested in training local partners with a particular emphasis this year on building the capacity of our locally engaged staff (LES) in Nauru. Our aim is to develop people within the local community and strengthen their capacity to they can continue our work in the future.

Formal training – 53 LES
(Frontline Management Training, Certificate III Community Services)
Informal training – 97 LES
(Internal courses, including Policies & Procedures)
HOST provides all staff with regular training in Mental Health First Aid, incident response management and Trauma Informed Practice.
Working globally

At HOST we believe that greater dialogue and action is needed globally to find alternative approaches to seeking protection and quality of life for displaced people. Therefore, HOST works to drive this discussion through education, collaboration and projects that build incremental change. The following is a summary of our work in this area in 2018.

"HOST is prepared to put in the work it takes to make things happen. You talk the talk and you walk the walk! Thank you for being a team of passionate true humanitarians who show a genuine interest in the work of others and actively network to reach a common goal."

Julia Frei, Same Skies

REFUGEE ASSETS

HOST partnered with Refugee Talent to develop ‘Refugee Assets’, a project that uses an online job matching platform and end-to-end support services to provide employment to refugees in the Asia-Pacific and meet labour shortages in the region. The project’s innovative approach to address labour shortages and the need for refugee employment was funded by the Humanitarian Innovation Fund, and supported by TrustLaw (Thomson Reuters Foundation) and Nokia Global Compliance & Operations Program.

TrustLaw provides access to pro bono legal support from the best law firms and corporate legal teams in the world. Our partnership with them allowed us to access Nokia as a key partner in the project – both to provide legal advice and potential refugee employment and other project support in the future.

They oversaw the legal research component of the project and produced the report ‘Access to Safe and Lawful Employment for Refugees: research on the law relating to the right to work for refugees in Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, India, Bangladesh, South Korea and Japan’.

HEALTH, EDUCATION AND LEARNING PROGRAM (HELP) FOR REFUGEES

In September 2018, HOST signed an agreement to work on the Refugee Skills Mapping Project with Roshan Learning Center and HELP for Refugees, a programme that provides learning opportunities for refugees, asylum seekers, and marginalised Indonesian communities in Jakarta. The project includes researching skills shortages and labour needs of refugee host countries, with the aim of matching these skills shortages with the skills and experience that refugees offer. We also expect this data will provide a clearer understanding of refugee skills in Indonesia.

HOST International is also working in consultation with local community-based research partner organisations on this project.
INNOVATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
HOST convened a workshop called “Innovation for Human Rights” at the Asia Pacific Conference on Refugee Rights (APCRR7) conference in Bangkok, Thailand in October. This workshop provided an opportunity to explore the reasons for innovation in rights-based practice and discuss the ideal conditions for innovation. There was an online panel of people and organisations working to provide language services, legal services and education to refugees utilising innovation to lead to rights-based outcomes in different contexts. The panel consisted of the co-founder of Refugee and Asylum Seeker Information Centre (RAIC), students from Project Stand Up in Malaysia and one of the founders of Tarjimly, a Facebook Messenger-based language translation tool.

TENT FOUNDATION
HOST partnered with the TENT Foundation to develop a presence in South East Asia to assist with business engagement. The TENT Foundation mobilises the private sector to improve the lives of forcibly displaced people, primarily through employment-focused programmes. HOST’s CEO had met with the TENT Foundation in New York in June 2018 to confirm that we will work collaboratively to achieve employment outcomes for refugees, as well as leverage their existing partnerships with multinational corporations who have a presence in South East Asia. HOST also assisted TENT representatives during their visit to Malaysia to explore refugee work rights opportunities.

ARC LINKAGE GRANT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UNSW
The Refugee Trauma and Recovery Program (RTRP) is a research program run by the School of Psychology at the University of New South Wales (UNSW), which is dedicated to understanding the impact of refugee trauma and daily stressors on adaptation and recovery. RTRP works with individuals with refugee backgrounds in Australia and has partnered with HOST International and SUAKA to investigate factors affecting the wellbeing of people living in sustained displacement. This study is important because it is vital to learn about the needs and coping strategies of people living in sustained displacement, such as Indonesia, in order to further understand and improve refugee adaptation. Information will be gathered via an online survey to refugees residing in Indonesia. Participants will be invited to complete the survey three times over two years. The anticipated outcomes will help identify whether their needs are being met, what the challenges are, and to help develop practical tools aiding service provision, such as risk factor checklists and strategy toolkits.

“We greatly enjoy working with HOST International staff. Their approach to building capacity of local initiatives, investing in innovation, and their deep understanding and respect for the challenges that exist in programme design and delivery at the community-level is greatly appreciated. We believe they are an excellent model for other organisations interested in supporting and working collaboratively with local and community-based efforts.”

Puttanee Kangkun, Coalition for the Rights of Refugee and Stateless Persons (CRSP)
Finance report

INVESTMENT IN TRAINING (STAFF)

$658,673

GIVING BACK COST ACROSS VARIOUS PROJECTS

- Donations: $46,237
- Little Things: $35,000
- Microfinancing: $15,000
- Sponsorships: $12,182

TOTAL EXPENSES:

- DIRECT SERVICES: 80.20% ($12,550,296.43)
- CORPORATE SERVICES: 19.80% ($3,098,042.31)

Data current as at 31st Dec: HOST International operates on a calendar financial year and records are independently audited annually. If you would like more information, a copy can be made available on request.
Acknowledgements

Thank you to all HOST International staff who work tirelessly to service the communities we work with.

Thank you to HOST Board members Scott Trueman, Nicole Yade and Michael Thomson who volunteer their time to govern HOST.

THANK YOU TO THE VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS THAT HAVE FORMED AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR WORK IN 2018 AND WHO HAVE MADE US FEEL WELCOME IN NEW PLACES.

- Angela Nickerson, University of New South Wales
- Aotearoa Resettled Community Coalition
- Asef and Ali Bayani, Advance Language Services
- Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN)
- Asylum Access, Malaysia
- Australian Department of Home Affairs
- Australian Presence Legal
- ChangeMakers Resettlement Forum
- Coalition for the Rights of Refugees and Stateless Persons (CRSIP), Thailand
- CSNet
- Department For International Development (DFID) in United Kingdom
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) in Australia
- Enhancing Learning and Research for Humanitarian Assistance (ELRHA)
- Department of Multicultural Affairs, Government of Nauru (GoN)
- Health, Education and Learning Program (HELP) for Refugees Indonesia
- Humanitarian Innovation Fund (HIF)
- Immigration Detention Coalition (IDC)
- Multicultural New Zealand
- Nicholas Proctor, University of South Australia
- New Zealand National Refugee Network
- Overseas Services to Survivors of Torture and Trauma (OSSTT)
- Payong, Malaysia
- Refugees and Asylum Seeker Information Centre (RAIC), Indonesia
- Refugee Talent
- ReCode Malaysia
- Philippe Legrain
- Roshan Learning Center, Indonesia
- Same Skies
- SUKA Society, Malaysia
- Superdiversity Institute for Law, Policy and Business, New Zealand
- Talent Beyond Boundaries (TBB)
- Tamara Dewi Gondo Soerijo
- TrustLaw, Thomson Reuters Foundation
- UNHCR
- Vidushi Singh, Project Stand Up
- Zizi Charida, Community Minds
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Canberra ACT 2600

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Acknowledgement of Country: We acknowledge the Ngunnawal and Darug people as the traditional owners of the land on which we work at HOST International. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.