



HOW YOUR SCHOOL CAN SUPPORT REFUGEES AND PEOPLE SEEKING ASYLUM

Information Pack



“I was freezing, and alone. Those days were full of sad thinking, confusion and hunger. For me, it’s like a home. It’s a place of safety, security, somewhere we can find help, speak to a person.”
Hajira

Make change happen with your school

Students are our future and schools play a vital role in shaping this through inspiring and empowering young people to be compassionate members of the community. By raising awareness and engaging with the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC), your school can help change the reality for refugees and people seeking asylum in Australia. Through education and action, students can become advocates for a fairer, more inclusive world.

About the ASRC

Founded in 2001, the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre is Australia's largest human rights organisation providing support to people seeking asylum. We are an independent not-for-profit organisation whose programs support and empower people seeking asylum to maximise their own physical, mental and social well being. We champion the rights of people seeking asylum and mobilise a community of compassion to create lasting social and policy change. The ASRC movement is proudly supported by a community of committed volunteers and supporters.



6,093
pro bono health
appointments provided



1,461
individuals and family groups
assisted by Human Rights Law Program



9,657
community meals served



40,613
nights of shelter provided to people
at imminent risk of homelessness



3,769
people who accessed our Foodbank

*financial year23/24

5 practical ways to support refugees with your school

1. Fundraise for Us 

2. Organise a Food Drive 

3. Book a Speaker 

4. Host a Feast For Freedom 

5. Run 4 Refugees 

A GENEROUS COMMUNITY



Fundraise and make a difference

A great way for students to raise funds and awareness around the issues people seeking asylum and refugees face in our community, is by organising a fundraiser.

Fundraise any time of the year or around key events such as Harmony Day in March or World Refugee Day in June.

Every dollar raised supports people seeking asylum and refugees where help is most urgently needed at our Footscray and Dandenong Centres - from keeping our ASRC Foodbank shelves filled, paying for crisis housing to legal support and health appointments.

Get in touch with our team to assist you with your school's fundraiser at events@asrc.org.au



KILVINGTON GRAMMAR

Year 9 Students at Kilvington Grammar School hold an annual Cut for a Cause. Every student going for the chop creates a fundraising page which they share with their family and friends to collect donations.



MARY MACKILLOP COLLEGE

Mary Mackillop Catholic Regional College in Leongatha, holds an annual College Walkathon. This year staff and students walked 10 km to raise funds for the ASRC.



THESE SCHOOLS HAVE ALSO ORGANISED FANTASTIC FUNDRAISERS

- Tintern Grammar and Preston High School held Cultural Days
- Thornbury High School Business Students ran a Market Day
- St Joseph's Primary School held a BBQ
- Penola Catholic College Year 10's fundraise throughout the year.
- Camberwell Girls Grammar had a Gold Coin Casual Clothes Day
- Christian College Geelong organised a Harmony Day Fundraiser

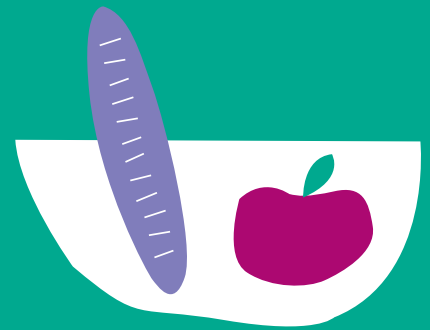
READY TO FUNDRAISE? REGISTER YOUR FUNDRAISER

Ready to organise a fundraiser with your school? Scan the QR code or click

Get resources to help make your fundraiser a great success



ASRC FOODBANK



Organise a food drive

Giving food is the most immediate and tangible way to support people seeking asylum and refugees.

Unite your staff, students and school community around a common cause. Your food donations go directly to some of the most vulnerable people in our community.

Parkdale Secondary College hosted a food drive



"Having the whole school be able to participate in the food drive is something that brings us together. There is always friendly competition between year levels and students can gain an understanding of how their contribution assists those who access the ASRC. We have a group of students visit the Food Bank prior to running our campaign so we can make a short video which we feel really highlights the importance of what we are trying to achieve."

Cassandra Palmer, School Counsellor, Parkdale Secondary College

Holy Trinity Catholic Primary School hosted a food drive

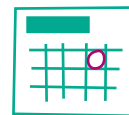


"Supporting the ASRC via a Food Drive has become one of our annual Social Justice initiatives and has helped the Holy Trinity community to not only learn more about the ASRC but also to provide support in a tangible and impactful way"

How to run a food drive



WHAT? Donations of honey, peanut butter, jam or tahini, tinned vegetables - tomatoes, peas, carrots, corn kernels, sweet and savoury biscuits and tuna in oil are items most in demand by the people who visit our foodbank.



WHEN? Decide on a start and finish date. The shorter the time span for your food drive, the easier it is to keep people engaged.



WHERE? Choose drop-off locations around school that are easy to access and highly visible. Provide a large container labelled with a food list.



NEED SUPPORT? Use our downloadable resources to promote your food drive or if you have questions, please email us on donatefood@asrc.org.au



DROP-OFF? Goods can be dropped off at our Footscray or Dandenong Centres.



Ready to run a food drive with your school? Scan the QR code or click [HERE](#)

SPEAKERS PROGRAM



Book a speaker with lived experience of seeking asylum

Our speakers can visit your school to share their experiences and ways that you can advocate for refugee rights.



The ASRC is committed to empowering and elevating the voices of people with lived experience of seeking asylum and refugees.

Through the Speakers Program, the ASRC provides a platform for people to tell their stories, in their own words, and to advocate for change. ASRC's speakers are advocates leading the discussion on human rights, multiculturalism and refugee issues.

You can book a wide variety of speakers to talk at your school. Speakers are available across metropolitan Melbourne and are suitable for Primary & Secondary School students.

To request a speaker simply complete the form on our website and the ASRC team will contact you with some options.



Scan the QR code or click



ABENY MAYO

Abeny Monyteng Ring Mayol is a South Sudanese woman. She lived in Kakuma refugee camp in the Turkana district and Nairobi, Kenya where she learned how to read and write. Abeny considers herself a storyteller.



MEDHI SINA

Mehdi is a former Hazara refugee, public speaker, and human rights activist. He started his journey after arriving in Australia on a leaky boat as an unaccompanied minor. Despite challenges, Mehdi earned a Biomedical Engineering degree and launched a podcast channel. He envisions a world where mutual learning and understanding create a better place for all.



PARISA SEKANDARI

Parisa Sekandari is pursuing a master's degree in international relations at Monash University, with a focus on gender equality & women's education. She is a key member of the Community for Humanity, a non-profit organisation committed to serving refugees in Australia. She also plays a vital role within 'Amplify Afghan Women'.



JAVID BAHONAR

Javid Bahonar is a Hazara originally from Afghanistan. His life, deeply intertwined with his heritage, has predominantly been spent as a refugee in Pakistan and India. In August 2021, amid Afghanistan's political chaos, he sought a fresh start in Australia. Javid's story is one of perseverance and adaptability.

Note: The ASRC provides support to refugee speakers through staff time and training. We encourage the community to pay a fee to speakers with lived experience. Speakers are to be paid directly by the school and they receive 100% of the fee.

Feast for Freedom

Feast for Freedom



We know that good food feeds the heart and soul and sharing a meal together unites people.

This is the power of Feast for Freedom.

Hosting a Feast for Freedom can bring your school community together to stand with refugees and people seeking asylum while raising vital funds for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre.

It is a true celebration of refugees and people seeking asylum - their food, their culture, their stories and their contribution to Australia's diversity.

As a Feast for Freedom Host you'll receive a host kit full of recipes gifted by refugees and other tips and tricks so you can plan your Feast and create a meal that makes a difference.



Jane, Jose & Lidys, Feast Hero Cooks 2025



Ready to Feast? Register your interest for Feast for Freedom 2026. Scan the QR code or click [HERE](#)

How Apollo Parkways Primary School Staff Hosted a Feast

Apollo Parkways Primary School in Greensborough loved the Indian feast this week with 16 colleagues. We raised over \$300! It's our 4th year doing this event and we love getting together for a special meal at lunchtime.



How Students at Flinders Christian Community College Feasted

"We hosted a Venezuelan feast at our school as a student-led project. The students did a practice cook at the end of term and then hosted the event complete with an 'experience' they designed.

Both students & guests learnt so much from the evening and it went a long way to educating us on a little known region of the world, and in understanding the journey refugees experience."

Jacqui Hodder

ASRC **RUN4REFUGEES**

Run 4 Refugees

Every year, hundreds of runners, joggers and walkers join Team ASRC to Run 4 Refugees in public running events across Australia.

From marathons in large cities to small fun runs, Team ASRC members run, jog, wheel or walk to make a difference by raising vital funds to support and empower people seeking asylum in their long walk to freedom, empowerment and dignity.

Why not get together a team from your school? You can train together in the lead up and have a fun day out together, all while fundraising and making an immediate impact in the lives of refugees and people seeking asylum.

"It's good to support the ASRC so they can continue the good work they are doing. They have so many things they do for people; supplying medication, giving Myki for transportation, finding jobs for people seeking asylum. People who don't have food come here to eat. Giving is very good."

Benny, former ASRC Client



Check out which runs you can join as part of Team ASRC. Scan the QR code or click

PLAN YOUR 2026

Key Dates

ALL YEAR ROUND

Fundraise for us

Organise a food drive



Book a speaker



FEBRUARY

Register or host your



Feast *for Freedom*

MARCH

Harmony Day March 21st

Organise a fundraiser/giving day



Register or host your

Feast *for Freedom*

APRIL



Host your

Feast *for Freedom*



RUN4REFUGEES
in the Ballarat Marathon

MAY

World Cultural Diversity Day May 21st

Organise a fundraiser/giving day



RUN4REFUGEES

in the Mornington Running Festival
and Great Ocean Road Running Festival

JUNE

World Refugee Week

Organise a fundraiser/giving day
Sunday 14 June to Saturday 20 June

World Refugee Day

Saturday 20th June

JULY



ASRC Winter Food Drive



RUN4REFUGEES
in Run Melbourne

OCTOBER



RUN4REFUGEES

in the Melbourne Marathon

DECEMBER

World Human Rights Day

Organise a fundraiser/giving day



ASRC Festive Food Drive



Need more information?

Contact ASRC Community and Events Team

Email events@asrc.org.au

Phone 1300 692 772