

Centre for Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Detainees (CARAD) | Strategic Plan 2021–24

VISION

A welcoming Australia where people seeking asylum, refugees, and detainees are treated with full respect and compassion and are afforded the opportunity to rebuild their lives as independent community members

PURPOSE

To provide advocacy and support for people seeking asylum, refugees, and detainees living in Western Australia

STRATEGIC GOALS

ESSENTIAL SERVICES

To provide critical support and services for people seeking asylum and refugees, ensuring that their essential needs are met

EMPOWERMENT & INDEPENDENCE

To foster the independence and dignity of people seeking asylum and refugees and to celebrate their value in our shared community

JUSTICE & ADVOCACY

To work for the protection of the human and other legal rights of people seeking asylum and refugees through advocacy, influence, and action

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

To provide opportunities for members of the community to become engaged in understanding and supporting people seeking asylum and refugees

ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE

To ensure that our work is effective, accountable, and sustainable so that CARAD can continue to achieve its purpose and vision

CORE VALUES

SOCIAL JUSTICE

CARAD fights for social justice for people seeking asylum and for refugees. Guided by a vision of wholeness of life for all people, this includes securing equitable access to economic and social opportunities and privileges

INDEPENDENCE

CARAD values its ability to advocate autonomously and, in the [funding](#) it seeks or the donations it receives, aims to fulfil its purpose and operate according to its values

RESPECT

CARAD recognises the dignity, strength and value all people, including the people we serve, members, supporters, and others

RESPONSIVENESS

CARAD aims to be proactive, flexible, and responsive to the changing needs and circumstances of the people who use its services

COMPASSION

CARAD works to alleviate the suffering of others wherever possible

COLLABORATION

CARAD works in partnership with people seeking asylum and refugees, volunteers, other agencies, donors, and supporters to provide the best possible outcomes for people who need assistance

| STRATEGIC GOALS | ESSENTIAL SERVICES | EMPOWERMENT & INDEPENDENCE | JUSTICE & ADVOCACY | COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | ORGANISATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS |
|--------------------|--|--|--|--|---|
| PRIORITY ACTIONS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide financial and material support to address critical and basic needs • Provide tenancy assistance, including accommodation and utilities support • Address critical food security needs through the CARAD Food Bank program • Help clients access health information, medical services, and critical medical supplies • Provide case work services to increase clients' access to community services • Provide welfare and advocacy for people seeking asylum and refugees in immigration detention | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide tutoring and homework support to refugee and asylum seeker children and young people • Support people seeking asylum to access higher education, training, and employment • Provide employment to clients through CARAD's Fare Go social enterprise initiative • Provide opportunities for community development and social connectedness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake systemic advocacy work in partnership with people seeking asylum and refugees • Work collaboratively with other agencies as partners on systemic advocacy initiatives • Engage with policymakers and elected representatives to achieve policy change • Lead and participate in advocacy networks and drive targeted advocacy campaigns • Disseminate information and elevate the voices of people with expertise through experience | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct awareness-raising and education activities to foster community understanding • Recruit, develop, and support community volunteers, including those with expertise through experience • Provide dynamic and meaningful volunteer positions, aligned to client needs • Offer volunteers opportunities for training and skills development • Empower clients, volunteers, and members with resources to advocate in their own communities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide quality client-centred services to people seeking asylum, refugees, and detainees • Build strong relationships with partners, donors, and stakeholders • Exercise sound governance, probity, and financial management • Support the development, diversity, and wellbeing of staff and volunteers • Ensure good communication with volunteers, donors, and supporters • Ensure that the voices of people with expertise through experience inform our work |
| FUTURE ASPIRATIONS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore opportunities to increase client access to services, including health, legal, and cash-based support • Extend detention services to Christmas Island, including remote case support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore opportunities to expand Fare Go and to develop additional social enterprises, in order to foster clients' financial independence • Provide resources for people with expertise through experience to provide peer support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase capacity to amplify the voices of clients and members to effect social and policy change • Develop a client reference group and enhance mechanisms for clients' participation in advocacy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct public events to foster intercultural relationships and learning • Recruit and develop more volunteers from refugee backgrounds | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise facilities and infrastructure to provide or increase client access to services |