



annual report

2014-15



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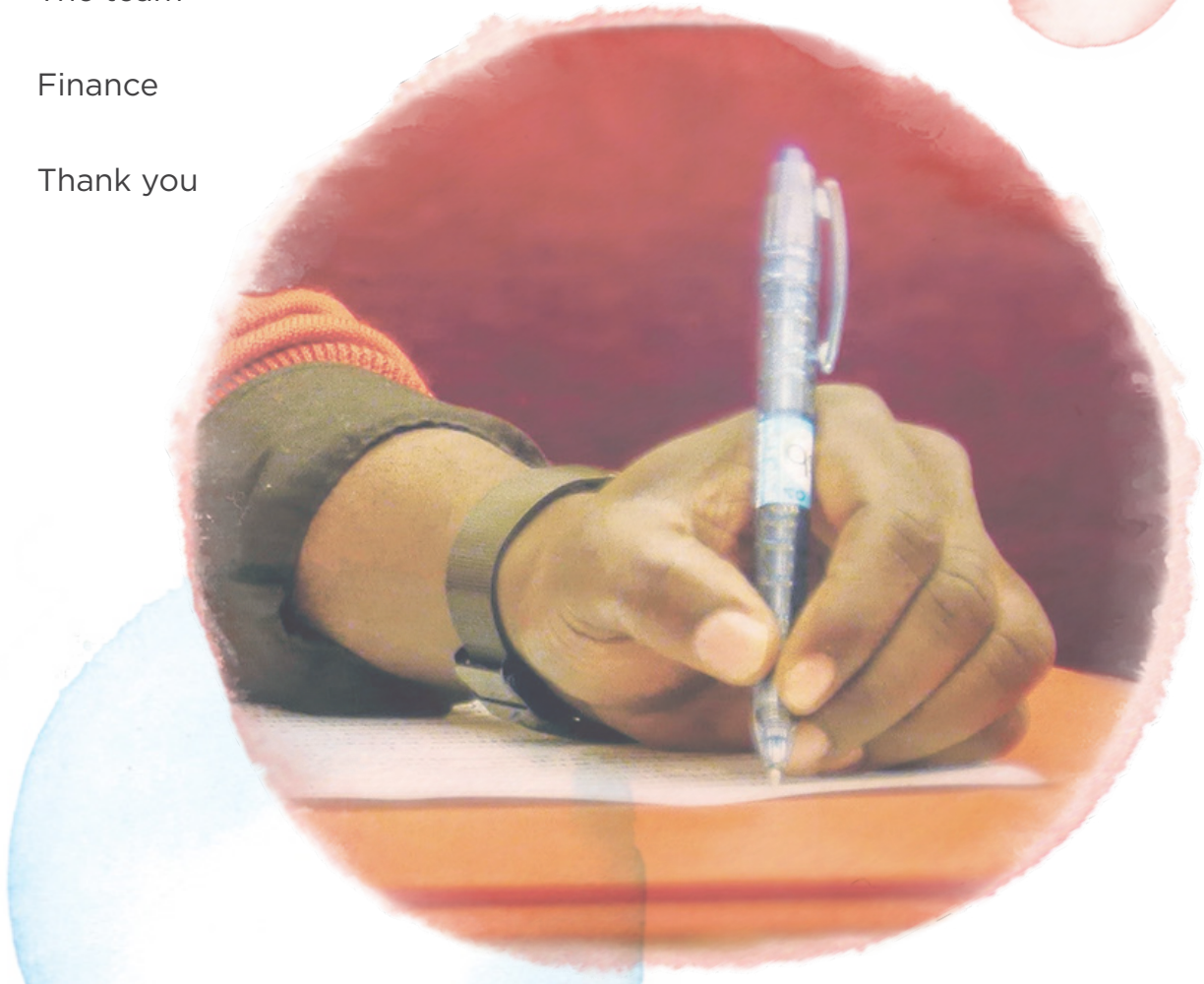
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Cover photo: Zakia Baig, Hazara Women's Friendship Network, speaks at a Friends of DAA event.

Inside cover photo: David Nyuol Vincent, then-Community Coordinator DAA, at the Amnesty International Forum at Parliament House.

Vision, mission, principles & strategic goals

Vision

An Australia where diaspora communities from countries in war and conflict have a strong voice and the power to promote change and improve peace, development and human rights in their country of origin.

Mission

Diaspora Action Australia works in Australia with people from countries affected by war and conflict who promote peace, development and human rights in their countries of origin. We support diaspora initiatives; provide resources, information and training; facilitate dialogue and shared learning; build networks; and seek to amplify community voices at local, national and international levels.

Principles

The actions of Diaspora Action Australia are guided by the following principles, laws and approaches:

Rights-based approach

We recognise the human rights of all people and work for the empowerment of people to claim their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

Community development

We recognise the wealth of knowledge and experience within communities, respect their independence and support their empowerment. Diaspora Action Australia works in solidarity with community partners, who maintain leadership of their projects for the long-term benefit of whole communities.

Gender equality

Diaspora Action Australia is committed to gender equality and recognises that gender-based oppression is structural and systemic.

Neutrality

Diaspora Action Australia does not take political or partisan positions regarding any conflict. We

are concerned with the human rights of people affected by conflict.

International human rights standards

We promote respect for, and compliance with, relevant international law and principles: Human Rights Law, International Humanitarian Law and Refugee Law.

Strategic goals

1. Support the empowerment of diaspora communities.
2. Raise awareness of issues relevant to diaspora communities.
3. Maximise the effect of diaspora community action.
4. Develop expertise in working with diaspora communities.
5. Ensure a strong and sustainable organisation.

Letter from the Chair & Executive Director

We are pleased to present this year's annual report from Diaspora Action Australia (DAA). Each year, the publication of this report presents an opportunity to reflect on the activities and achievements of the year past, and to look forward to the challenges and opportunities ahead.

It has been a year of change and evolution for DAA, from new faces among our staff, volunteers and Board members, to a complex and changing global environment in which diaspora communities live and organise together.

While DAA is unique in being exclusively dedicated to empowering diaspora communities in Australia, there is an increasing recognition of the positive influence that diaspora organisations can have in Australia and overseas. This recognition is growing through the non-governmental organisation sector, the community services sector and into government. DAA has long understood the powerful potential in diaspora communities, however it is pleasing to see this understanding take root further in the community.

This year has seen us work across diverse communities originating from Africa and South-Asia, with women and men, talented youth and established community leaders, with individuals, organisations and government. DAA's strength is found in building conversations across these organisations and bringing the unique voice of Australian diaspora communities to the fore. You will find inspiring stories from these communities throughout this report, as well as insights into the people behind this valuable work.

DAA now looks ahead to another phase of its existence, with exciting new partnerships and work on the horizon. We will, of course, remain grounded by our core mission and our relationships with the diaspora communities who are at the heart of all that we do. We acknowledge our funders, donors and other supporters who have worked in partnership with us. We would also like to extend our most sincere thanks to the staff, volunteers and Board members who have given so generously of their time, energy and commitment this year. DAA is made strong by the efforts of those who believe in our mission.



Jez Hunghanfoo, Chair
Denise Cauchi, Executive Director

Our year in numbers

community

175

175 diaspora community members directly accessed DAA programs

11

26

DAA facilitated 11 workshops for the community, with a total of 26 diaspora organisations accessing them

social media

31%

Our social media engagement grew by 31%

international



We worked with nine key diaspora organisations over the year in partnership projects

These partners work towards peace in five different countries

collaboration

18

18 representatives from the international development sector, the Australian government, and the community sector collaborated on DAA's projects

volunteers

65%

of our volunteers came from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds

8%

were refugees

81

Our 81 volunteers provided 5818 hours of work

38

DAA provided a total of 38 workshops for its volunteers



community

"I am here in Australia enjoying my life to the fullest, and there is nothing missing for me, but... all my family members they are still back in Darfur... My family is displaced and I think it is more than five years since they left their village and they [had to be] relocated. And if I am not doing anything to help that, then I am just isolating myself, not only from my family, but from the whole world... I have to do something, you know..."

Mohamed Khalil-Abaker, Darfur community leader

Diaspora:

People who have left, but maintain ties with, their original homeland

"I will promise that if we are united here, we can even go back and change the whole situation in South Sudan."

Reverend Charles Okwo, South Sudanese Unification Committee

Fostering unity among South Sudanese communities

Victoria's first-ever South Sudanese Leadership Retreat brought together community leaders from across regional and metropolitan Victoria with the aim of unifying South Sudanese communities and promoting peace in South Sudan. DAA organised and hosted the 3-day retreat, in partnership with the South Sudanese Unification Committee (SSUC).

On 5-7 December 2014, 62 representatives from South Sudanese sub-communities – representing a wide range of tribal backgrounds – took active part in the discussion of important issues such as ethical leadership, peacebuilding, the role of women in leadership, harmonious relationships between sub-communities, and the importance of maintaining unity in times of conflict. This was no small achievement as years of civil war have driven a wedge between dozens of ethnic groups from South Sudan, the world's newest country.

Why unity?

In late 2013, a resurgence of conflict in South Sudan brought to the surface deep-seated tensions among South Sudanese communities in Victoria. The SSUC saw the need to heal divisions for the sake of harmony in Australia and for the potential of a unified diaspora to influence peace in South Sudan. The SSUC worked tirelessly for 18 months in the lead up to the retreat to encourage leaders from all tribal organisations to come together.

The desire to put aside any divisions, and foster peace and cooperation for harmony was voiced by many. One participant said he came because, "I hoped to get a unity of South Sudanese [people, and] I hope to get peace within me that was stolen by the division of my people".

A new peak body

One of the main purposes of the retreat was to seek agreement for the formation of a new peak body to represent all South Sudanese communities in Victoria. The leaders from the two existing community associations agreed to disband their organisations in favour of establishing one unified South Sudanese voice.

After a lot of spirited discussion, retreat participants agreed on a draft constitution for the peak body and a date was set for the election of

the governing committee. The election process took place in April 2015 and the new South Sudanese Community Association of Victoria (SSCAV) was formed (see box).

Healing divisions

Although some participants were initially sceptical about the possibility of unity between different South Sudanese groups, by the end of the retreat these doubts were replaced with optimism:

"I went in with no hope or expectations, because I thought there would be a lot of talking, people may be somewhat argumentative and in the end there would be no solution, but the open communication was established. It gave me a renewed sense of hope and trust for our community. I felt for once, that our community (as a collective) was amazing, I felt proud."

(Retreat participant)

Leaders openly committed to take the good will generated at the retreat back to their communities, and to continue to foster a peaceful coexistence. This was evident in a statement produced by group leaders:

"We believe that we are strong when united, and weak when divided. We believe in forgiveness. We know that peace, unity and respect for diversity are the foundations for the prosperity of our future generations. By promoting peaceful coexistence, collaboration and open communication, we can build harmony and make a difference..."

As South Sudanese community leaders we commit to translate these words into real action and to be held accountable for these commitments by the communities we represent."



Steps taken toward unity at the retreat are the beginning of a long journey. DAA looks forward to working with the SSCAV for the wellbeing of the Victorian South Sudanese diaspora and for its potential to influence peace in South Sudan.

A new peak body is born

Elections for the governing committee of the SSCAV were held in April 2015. More than 2,000 people queued at polling stations over two consecutive days, and voters came from all over Melbourne and regional Victoria. Voters elected five women and fourteen men from a range of tribal backgrounds, with Kot Monoah appointed as chairperson. Through their newly elected leadership, Victoria's South Sudanese people will now: have a unified voice with local and state governments; engage positively with agencies such as the Victorian Multicultural Commission and Victoria Police; and become a role model for community cohesion.

The SSCAV is located at the African Australian Community Centre: 30A Pickett St, Footscray.



"As an individual [I] learned a lot from this retreat, learned the power and dreams of a united voice and that is something I will pass to my community."

(Retreat participant)

Who attended the retreat?

Participants: 62 South Sudanese community leaders (54 men and eight women). Approximately 75% came from metropolitan Melbourne and 25% came from regional Victoria.

Guest speakers and facilitators included: Chin Tan (then-Chairperson, Victorian Multicultural Commission), Dr Charles Mphande (Victoria University), Charles Allen (Victoria Police), Liz Week, Rob Wood and Cheryl Wood (Initiatives of Change) and Stephanie Cousins (Amnesty International).

Media: The retreat and subsequent peak body elections attracted coverage from: US current affairs portal OZY.com; South Sudanese online news platforms Talk of Juba, The Nation Mirror and Gurtong Trust; Melbourne ethnic community Radio 3ZZZ; and Victorian Leader local newspapers.

Supported by: The retreat was made possible through the funding and in-kind support from the Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship (OMAC), the South Sudanese Community Association (SSCA), CatholicCare and Victoria Police's Priority Communities Division.

From left: Lizzy Kuoth, youth leader; the SSLR group celebrate on day three of the retreat; Chin Tan, then-chairperson from Victorian Multicultural Commission; Nyawargak Dei Wal, then-South Sudanese Council of Victoria.



Enhancing skills and building knowledge

DAA is the only organisation in Australia exclusively dedicated to empowering diasporas to become effective agents for change. The diaspora organisations we work with carry out a range of projects overseas such as building schools, running medical programs, developing eco-tourism, empowering women and keeping children safe. They also raise awareness of human rights issues and bring these to the attention of the United Nations and the Australian Government.

DAA supports this work by offering training and workshops; matching skilled volunteer support workers and consultants with diaspora organisations; and facilitating networking opportunities. This enables diaspora organisations to strengthen the leadership and skills needed for the effective establishment, maintenance and resourcing of projects.

Tailored support

This year, skilled DAA volunteers and consultants responded to diaspora requests by providing one-on-one tailored support and mentoring in areas such as social media, advocacy strategy development, media engagement, public speaking, leadership, organisational structure, fundraising, finance and overseas money transfers.

From 2014-15, DAA provided tailored support and mentoring to the following diaspora organisations: Oromia Support Group Australia, Bridging Lanka, Peace Palette, Guir Baai, Australian Afghan Development Organisation, Darfur Australia Network / Darfur Humanitarian Advocacy Australia, Mamaland Hope for Future Foundation, South Sudanese Community Association in Victoria and Anyikööl.

Organisational development workshops

In 2015, a series of workshops in organisational development was hosted through a partnership between DAA, the Brotherhood of St Laurence's Ecumenical Migration Centre, and Platform Advisors, a company that provides legal and



From top: Oromia Support Group Australia's Lensa Dinka; participant of Bridging Lanka's donkey management and welfare project in Sri Lanka.

financial consultancy and services. The workshops covered organisational governance, financial management, fundraising strategies and financing projects overseas. The workshops were attended by 11 organisations, including organisations working on schools in Uganda, human rights advocacy in Egypt, women's rights in Afghanistan and education support in Liberia.

Oromia Support Group Australia (OSGA)

DAA has been working with OSGA since 2010. This human rights organisation raises awareness of the rights of the Oromo people and other ethnic organisations in Ethiopia. This year, DAA supported OSGA to develop a detailed policy advocacy strategy. A member of the Oromia Support Group said DAA's support "helped define [our] vision and make [our] objectives clearer".

Bridging Lanka

Bridging Lanka connects Sri Lankans with the goal of bridging ethnic, religious and geographic divides. Bridging Lanka runs development and town planning projects in the north-east of Sri Lanka, including town planning, livelihood projects for women widowed during the war, IT programs for young people and a donkey rehabilitation project. This year, DAA mentored Bridging Lanka in aspects of event planning and preparations. This group then held several public-awareness and fundraising events in Melbourne and Brisbane, attended by several hundred people and raising much-needed funds for the organisation's projects in Sri Lanka.

Boosting women's leadership

DAA is committed to strengthening women's diaspora organisations and empowering women as leaders. During the year, DAA facilitated various workshops and mentoring sessions to bolster women as stronger advocates in their human rights and development work.

Women Leading Change workshops

As part of our Women Leading Change (WLC) program, DAA held four workshops for women focused on building skills in advocacy, communications and public speaking. The workshops brought together expert guest speakers, including international journalists, media specialists, a public speaking coach, and advocacy and campaign managers from agencies such as Oxfam Australia. Women from the Sri Lankan, South Sudanese, Iranian, Oromo, Somali, Tibetan and Afghan communities participated in the workshops.

Participant Gulghotai Bezhan, President of the Afghan Women's Organisation of Victoria, said: "Our trainer showed us how to be confident, how to manage yourself, [and] how to speak in front of people. I can take these skills to Afghanistan and speak with the media, knowing I can effectively get my message across."

Working with Mamaland

DAA has been working with the South Sudanese women's organisation Mamaland Hope for Future Foundation since 2013. Mamaland is a not-for-profit organisation which aims to help the women and children of South Sudan reach their potential through promoting access to resources. This year, the focus of the DAA-Mamaland collaboration was on developing an organisational strategy to help Mamaland more effectively articulate its vision. A DAA volunteer support worker mentored members in crucial skills such as communications, event planning and organisational governance. Mamaland spent the year consolidating their fundraising activities and planning for the development of social enterprise in South Sudan.



Athena Nguyen, Oxfam Australia, presenting at one of the Women Advancing for Change workshops.

Women as effective speakers

Community leaders continue to use DAA as a springboard to have their voices reach a wider audience. This year Zakia Baig, Executive Director of the Hazara Women's Friendship Network, gave a speech at a Friends of DAA event to commemorate International Women's Day. Zakia says she wants to be, "a voice for those who have no courage or opportunity to speak for themselves". Women and children, says Zakia, are often the hardest hit in times of conflict and the most disenfranchised: "It is vital that women are given a voice to depict that disaster and speak about solutions."

Through DAA's networks, Zakia also presented on a panel at an Amnesty International forum at Parliament House and was a keynote speaker at the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) University Network Conference. At the same conference Nouria Salehi, Executive Director of the Australian Afghan Development Organisation, formed part of a panel with DAA Executive Director Denise Cauchi on diaspora-led development. Lensa Dinka, a member of the Oromia Support Group Australia, delivered an inspirational talk at another Friends of DAA event later in the year.

Anyikööl Oral History Project

In order to pass on the life stories of South Sudanese women, oral histories were recorded by independent researcher Sara Maher. DAA assisted Sara to launch the project and officially hand the oral histories over to the State Library of Victoria, where they are now housed. This is the first time South Sudanese women's oral histories have been recorded and published in Australia.

Building a supportive stage for diasporas in Australia

Diasporas are becoming increasingly visible players on the global scene, involved in peacebuilding, development, advocacy, humanitarian assistance and post-conflict reconstruction in their countries of origin. This is in addition to sending remittances, investing in businesses, assisting in migration and contributing to nation building. While European and North American aid and development sectors have been working with diaspora organisations for the past decade, their Australian counterparts are only now beginning to recognise the extent of diaspora contributions and potential.

One of DAA's main goals is to make diasporas more visible so their voices are heard by Australian policy makers. DAA also aims to see diasporas' unique expertise leveraged to enhance the country's development and humanitarian programs.

Raising awareness

This year, in order to raise awareness of the role played by diasporas in development and peace building, DAA representatives have spoken at various events, often with diaspora partners, including:

- Amnesty International forum at Parliament House
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) seminar
- Caritas Australia
- The Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) University Network Conference, "Evidence and practice in an age of inequality".

As DAA is committed to amplifying diaspora voices, rather than speaking on their behalf, DAA also facilitated public speaking opportunities for the Oromia Support Group Australia (OSGA), Hazara Women's Friendship Network, Bridging

Lanka and the Australian Afghan Development Organisation.

Promoting inclusion of diaspora voices

DAA is also committed to linking diaspora organisations directly with policymakers. This happens partly by brokering relationships and partly through DAA's involvement in national-level committees and consultation processes. In 2014, DAA Executive Director Denise Cauchi was elected to the ACFID Executive Committee and in 2015 was appointed to the Australian Government's Advisory Group on Australia Africa Relations (AGAAR). "The goal of this involvement is to encourage decision makers in government, international development organisations and other sectors to recognise diasporas as key stakeholders, partners and experts in international development," says Denise. "I look forward to building that bridge."



Key diaspora community members talk at the Amnesty International Forum at Parliament House. From the top: David Nyuol Vincent, then-Community Coordinator DAA; Zakia Baig, Hazara Women's Friendship Network; and OSGA's Marama Kufi.

Research finds diasporas innovate in development projects

As part of DAA's commitment to continual learning, a research project was carried out in 2014 to better understand how diaspora organisations operate, their unique value-add, and their strengths and challenges.

"Understanding diaspora-led development and peacebuilding: Case studies of five African diaspora organisations in Australia" looked at the work of Peace Palette (PP), Oromia Support Group Australia (OSGA), Mamaland Hope for Future Foundation, Darfur Humanitarian Advocacy Australia and its predecessor Darfur Australia Network (DHAA and DAN respectively), and Wec Nyin Australia (WNA).

The results showed diaspora organisations to be working in a range of areas that included the following:

Maternal health: In 2013, Mamaland furnished an entire maternity ward at the Juba Teaching Hospital, in South Sudan. It is establishing a health and education centre for women, providing antenatal health care and support.

Child Protection & Education: Wec Nyin and Peace Palette have built, or are planning on building, schools in villages in South Sudan. Peace Palette have established a boys' shelter (The Nhomlau Children's Centre) that also serves as a school for both boys and girls. This organisation has also built a community garden with the goal of supplying 40% of the centre's food requirements. Wec Nyin Australia have built a primary school in South Sudan and are planning on building a secondary school.

Advocacy: The OSGA challenges the claims of the Ethiopian Government regarding its human rights record towards the Oromo people, and participates in UN processes and consultations. DHAA, formally DAN, continue to advocate to the Australian Government to maintain Darfur as a priority in its international aid agenda.



Abuka plays during a Peace Palette fundraising event.

Cost effective innovation

DAA research has found that diaspora organisations use their transnational networks to develop innovative, cost-effective and small-scale projects. These projects evolve from close connections with their communities in Australia, communities in their countries of origin and with their counterparts who are settled in other parts of the world.

The organisations' members, who come from the countries they are serving, know how to develop culturally appropriate and greatly needed projects. Many of these individuals work tirelessly to inform the public and the Australian Government about their countries, and most of these activities are done on a volunteer basis.

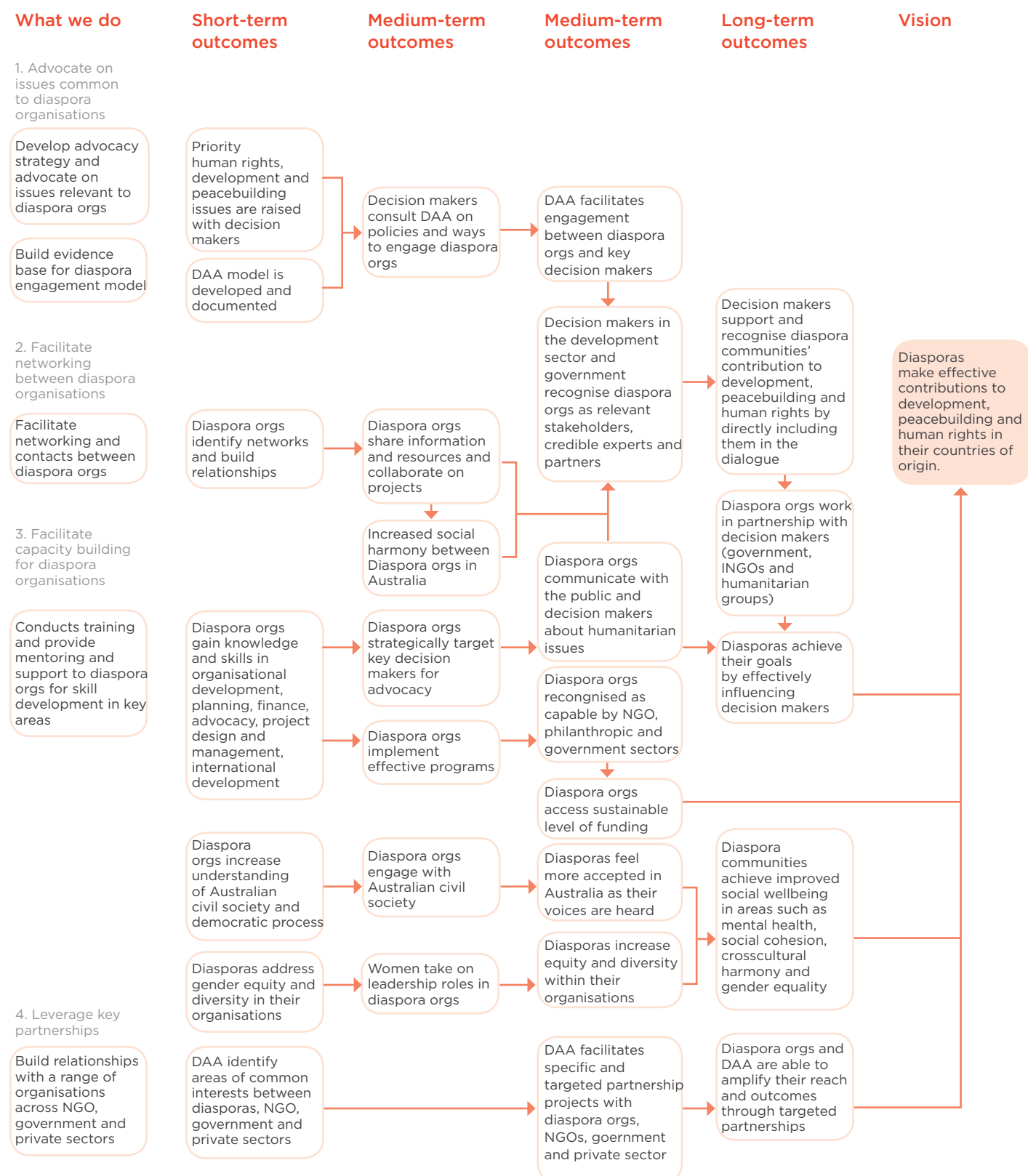
Diaspora projects represent an interesting area of development and human rights work, which is both complementary to, and contrasts with, traditional development models. This is particularly the case where such projects are operating in areas where no international organisations are present.

All these organisations face a similar challenge, however: obtaining enough funding. Many of the organisations have been frustrated by a lack of access to government funding (generally earmarked for larger organisations) and are hampered by a lack of awareness of available grants and skills in grant writing. Availability of relatively modest core funding is key to improve these organisations' sustainability so they can continue to do their important work.

The full report can be found on DAA's website at www.diasporaaction.org.au

A theory of change

DAA supports diaspora communities in Australia. This enables them to achieve change in their communities both here and in their countries of origin.



about us

"I have gained such an in-depth and broad range of skills through my time at DAA. DAA is unique in the sense that it is small enough to allow volunteers to really take part and contribute, while also being big enough to make a tangible difference with significant projects."

Dale Simmons, Community Engagement Volunteer, 2014 -15

DAA volunteers, both past and present, enjoy a social bowling day.

Our volunteers

The time and commitment of our volunteers is invaluable to the work we do. Our volunteers are both dynamic and diverse, and often find that working at DAA leads to an increased sense of connection, participation, belonging and enhanced workplace skills. Meet some of the faces that make it all happen.



Mark Macdonald
Media Coordinator
2014-

Mark joined us last year to promote the work of diaspora organisations and extend DAA's public reach. With extensive experience in media relations and publicity here and in the UK, Mark's first task was to publicise the South Sudanese Leadership Retreat, its significance and objectives.

"For me, volunteering with DAA is about sharing my skills with communities from around the world and being more informed about international conflict and its consequences. Working with DAA has also

given me insight into how the NGO sector operates and enabled me to join training courses that build on this knowledge. I've met new people from many backgrounds and heard first hand accounts of survival and positive action.

"Working on the retreat, for example, really improved my understanding of the political and ethnic divisions underpinning this civil conflict, and its social impact on the South Sudanese diaspora in Australia."



Bibiana Huggins
Grant Writer
2014-2015

Anthropology student Bibiana joined DAA as a grant writer, while completing a PhD in Anthropology at Melbourne University. At the retreat she coordinated the 'scribes'—the volunteers who were recording the discussion among community leaders.

"It was culturally enriching to witness the South Sudanese community coming together to make an agreement, and was a good reminder that bureaucratic processes operate differently cross-culturally. The retreat was also talked about in my university community, so it was academically an advantage to have played a part."



Bronwyn Tilbury
Community Development Officer
2009-2010

Bronwyn joined the organisation in 2009 as a community development officer after completing a Masters in Development Studies at Melbourne University. She organised human rights workshops, community engagement and volunteer activities, and also prepared grant proposals.

Bronwyn says the skills she learnt at DAA helped her get her first job with a small organisation in rural Fiji and subsequent roles as: Young Women's Leadership Team Leader at the Fiji Women's Rights Movement; Research & Editorial Coordinator with Conciliation Resources, UK; and her current job as Pacific Program Manager with the International Women's Development Agency. Bronwyn regularly returns to DAA to lead workshops, talks and presentations.



Dale Simons
Community Engagement Officer
2014-2015

Dale had begun a degree in social science, majoring in human rights, when he discovered DAA. He is now working for church-based not-for-profit CityCare and says his resume drew heavily on the skills he developed at DAA.

"Project planning and management are some of the most valuable skills I've developed. The many challenges around community engagement – fund-raising, gender/cultural awareness, and building and mentoring sustainable community organisations – provided invaluable experience."



Dinesh Liyanage
Fundraising & Multimedia
2014-2015

Dinesh joined DAA in 2014 and has become a much-loved member of the team. Working in fundraising and digital media projects, he says he hopes to use his new skills to get a paid position in the near future.

"Working as a volunteer with DAA has given me the experience of managing a team of volunteers involved in a 'real world' project—the donor drive. During this project, I developed new skills in business, as well as, technical skills such as web editing, graphic design and social media management."



Diana Rincón
Writer
2014-2015

Diana joined the team hoping to improve her English writing skills. She arrived in Australia from Colombia in 2012 and began studies in English language and International Development.

"I could experience for the first time in Australia an office environment where people are committed to what they do. During my time at DAA I wrote blogs that were published online and that helped me to build more self-confidence and feel more comfortable with my English skills. Meanwhile, I met a lot of amazing people who I really appreciate."

Bringing friends together

Since 2013, DAA has organised social networking gatherings with wonderful people who are passionate about supporting diaspora organisations. Attendees are usually involved with DAA's work in various ways and we proudly call these people our friends. Some are diaspora partners; others are past and current volunteers who have donated their time and talents to make DAA's work possible; and many are previous DAA staff and Board members who have helped to shape the organisation. They have been coming together three times a year to hear inspiring speakers, meet people and celebrate DAA's work with music, snacks, drinks and great conversations.

At the events there is always a guest speaker who is usually a member of one of DAA's partner organisations. Guest speakers share the stories of their lives, their work and their communities in their countries of origin.

This financial year, Zakia Baig, founder of the Hazara Women's Friendship Network, and Lensa Dinka, Oromia Support Group Australia, were two wonderful and courageous women who shared their inspirational stories. Our former staff member David Vincent also spoke of his long journey to Australia, which started when he was a boy fleeing the conflict in Sudan.

These social events represent a great opportunity for DAA friends to come together and to connect with other like-minded individuals who share a passion for peace, human rights and development.



Volunteers, community members, family and friends enjoy good conversation and laughs at our 'Friends' events three times a year.

The team

Board

The Board is the governing body of Diaspora Action Australia and is made up of seven elected members.

Board members as at June 30, 2015:

Chair: Jez Hunghanfoo
Secretary: Joe Selvaretnam
Treasurer: Jamie Han Chu
Member: Nuran Higgins
Member: Hala Abdelnour
Member: Joanna Hayter
Member: Andrew Hewett

Damian Facciolo was Chair of the Board until 1.3.2015.

Operational Team

The Operational Team is made up of staff who manage DAA's day-to-day operations:

Executive Director: Denise Cauchi
Volunteer Coordinator: Nicky Reiss
Community Coordinator: David Nyuol Vincent (from Feb 2014 - Feb 2015) & Lisa Vettori (from Feb 2015)
Financial advisor: Lin Sun

Volunteers

Our valued volunteers work in the following teams: Communications, Community Engagement, IT & Office Management and Resource Mobilisation.

DAA wishes to thank the following volunteers for kindly offering their time and expertise:

Alexander Kaginyan	Lual Maker Lual
Amy Rashap	Luke Papatheohari
Ann David	Manuela Rubio Gomes
Ashraf Hosseini	Maria Alejandra
Audrey Potter	Guerrero Hurtado
Behnam Khamisi	Mariana Katolyk
Belinda O'Connor	Mark Macdonald
Bibiana Huggins	Mary Njeri

Bronwyn Duke	Matthew
Cara Dixon	Graham-Freeman
Chris Szymanski	Mia Wotherspoon
Cigdem Serce	Michael Muchomba
Clark Wang	Kinyua
Dale Simons	Michael Liddell
Daniela Santa Cruz	Michael McArdle
Diana Rincon	Moein Mehrolhassani
Dinesh Liyanage	Nancy Smith
Edie Stevens	Nick Chiarizia
Elena Lobazova	Nick Mockford
Elly Freer	Nicole Knuckey
Eric Deng	Obaidullah Mehak
Evelina Gyulkhandanyan	Oliver Caceres
Fabiana Massoquette	Padma Priya
Gabrielle Innes	Pallavi Singhal
Gary Wang	Prasad Hettiarachchi
Hanna Jacobsen	Punya Abhayawickrama
Hannah Peake	Richie Dean
Haritha Theekshana	Rostand Bongwa
Fonseka	Sarah Thomson
Isadora Quay	Shabana Shah
Jane Billings	Snjez Cosic
Jayarathnam	Sudarshi De Mel
Ruthirakumar	Sue Chaplin
Jean-Noel Melotte	Suzanne McKenzie
Jeevika Vivekananthan	Tania Arellanes Licea
Joaquim Soriano Viana	Tobi Folorunso
Jodie Martire	Van Khoa Pham
Jonathan Fenderson	Varuni Bala
Jorge Gamba	Wem Etuknwa
Justine Curatolo	Xalteva Quetzeli
Kelly Nicholls	Gonzales Buitrago
Kristien Quintiens	Yonas Jeremie Dare
Liana Nzabampema	Zawadi Nguma
Linda Fiddes	

Pro Bono Consultants

Special thanks to the following individuals who provided DAA with specialist skills and advice:

Anna Aristotle

Ruth Friedman, The Thread Consulting

Summary Financial Reports

Diaspora Action Australia continues to face challenges to income generation. For the year ended 30 June 2015, the organisation reduced its deficit to \$3,652, compared with a deficit of \$22,049 for the year ended 30 June 2014. Monetary revenue for the year increased by 17% to \$176,370 from \$150,857 of the last financial year. Contributions from volunteers increased by 22% as well, compared to the 2013/14 financial year. Despite an increase in the volume of DAA's activities, the organisation kept overheads controlled, increasing by 4% compared with the previous year. Total cash outflow on operations amounted to \$180,022 compared with \$172,906 last financial year. Total equity of the organisation at 30 June 2015 was \$27,882.

Income statement
for the year ended 30 June 2015

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Revenue		
Donations and gifts		
Monetary	4,259	1,946
Non-monetary (Note 3)	198,491	162,560
Grants	169,671	145,755
Other Income	2,440	3,157
Total revenue	374,861	313,417
Expenditure		
International programs	-	-
Community education	16,860	25,005
Fundraising costs	319	722
Accountability and administration	31,849	22,302
Non-monetary expenditure (Note 3)	198,491	162,560
Domestic programs expenditure	130,994	124,877
Total expenditure	378,513	335,466
Excess(shortfall) of revenue over expenditure	(3,652)	(22,049)

Notes

Note 1
The Summary Financial Reports have been prepared in accordance with the requirements set out in the ACFID Code of Conduct. For further information on the Code please refer to the ACFID Code of Conduct Implementation Guidance available at www.acfid.asn.au

Note 2
For a copy of the full financial report for the year ending 30 June 2015 please go to our website www.diasporaaction.org.au or contact info@diasporaaction.org.au

Note 3
Non-Monetary Income and Expenditure FY14/15, volunteers contributed 5818 hours which is valued at AUD 183,791, and consultants contributed pro bono work valued at AUD 14,700. The total Non-Monetary Income and Expenditure FY14/15 is AUD 198,491.

Summary balance sheet
as at 30 June 2015

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	85,751	127,910
Trade and other receivables	34,476	12,376
Inventories	-	-
Assets held for sale	-	-
Other financial assets	-	-
Total current assets	120,227	140,286
Non-current assets		
Trade and other receivables	-	-
Other financial assets	-	-
Property, plant and equipment	2,435	3,813
Investment property	-	-
Intangibles	-	-
Other non-current assets	-	-
Total non-current assets	2,435	3,813
Total assets	122,662	144,099
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	17,419	21,420
Borrowings	-	-
Current tax liabilities	-	-
Other financial liabilities	-	-
Provisions	12,393	5,936
Other	64,968	81,173
Total current liabilities	94,780	108,529
Non-current liabilities		
Borrowings	-	-
Other financial liabilities	-	-
Provisions	-	4,036
Other	-	-
Total non-current liabilities	-	4,036
Total liabilities	94,780	112,565
Net assets	27,882	31,534
Equity		
Reserves	-	-
Retained earnings	27,882	31,534
Total equity	27,882	31,534

Statement of changes in equity
for the year ended 30 June 2015

	Retained earnings	Reserves	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Balance 1 July 2014	31,534	-	31,534
Adjustments or changes in equity	-	-	-
Items of other comprehensive income	-	-	-
(Shortfall) of revenue over expenses	(3,652)	-	(3,652)
Amount transferred (to) from reserves	-	-	-
Balance 30 June 2015	27,882	-	27,882

ACFID Member and signatory to the
ACFID Code of Conduct



The Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) is the peak Council for Australian not-for-profit aid and development organisations. Diaspora Action Australia is a full member of ACFID and is signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct, which is a voluntary, self-regulatory sector code of good practice. As a signatory we are committed and fully adhere to the ACFID Code of Conduct, conducting our work with transparency, accountability and integrity. Information about how to make a complaint can be found at www.acfid.asn.au

Diaspora Action welcomes the opportunity to listen to, and respond to, concerns and complaints using its complaints management process. Please direct any complaints to Denise Cauchi at denise@diasporaaction.org.au

Table of cash movement for designated purposes
for the year ended 30 June 2015

	Cash available at beginning of financial year	Cash raised during financial year	Cash disbursed during financial year	Cash available at end of financial year
Caritas Australia - Core operations	-00	30,000	30,000	-00
Oxfam Australia - Core operations	-00	52,000	22,000	30,000
City of Melbourne - Volunteer support program	7,500	521	8,021	-00
City of Melbourne - Community organisation mentoring	10,540	318	10,858	-00
Victorian Multicultural Commission - Refugee and migrant women's empowerment and leadership	-00	8,031	8,031	-00
Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship - Organisational development for sustainability	48,609	68,004	81,645	34,968
Oxfam - African diaspora research	4,524	3,741	8,265	-00
All other purposes	56,737	27,219	63,173	20,783
Total	127,910	189,834	156,750	85,751


Diaspora Action Australia Inc.
Statement by Members of the Board

The Board of the Association has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose summarised financial report have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements. In the opinion of the Board, the summarised financial report in the preceding pages:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Association as at 30th June 2015 and its performance for the year that ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board and is signed for and on behalf of the Board by:


Jez Hunghanfoo
Chair


Jamie Han Chu
Treasurer

Dated this 21st day of September 2015




Scope

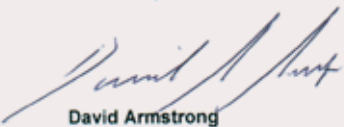
We have audited the summarized financial report of Diaspora Action Australia Inc. which comprises the Summary balance sheet as at 30 June 2015, and the income statement, statement of changes in equity and table of cash movement for designated purpose for the year ended on that date in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards and to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the Diaspora Action Australia Inc. has complied in all material respects with the relevant requirements of the Australian Council for International Development Code of Conduct

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion Diaspora Action Australia Inc. has complied in material respects with the requirements of Australian Council for International Development Code of Conduct and the information reported in the summarized financial report is consistent with the annual financial report from which it is derived and upon which we expressed an unmodified audit opinion in our report to the members. For better understanding of the scope of our audit, this report should be read in conjunction with our independent auditor's report to the members accompanying the annual financial report of Diaspora Action Australia Inc.

Independent Auditor's Report
To the members of
Diaspora Action Australia Inc.


Armstrong Dubois


David Armstrong
Partner

Melbourne
21 September 2015

Level 5, 70 City Road, Southbank Vic 3006 Australia.
Ph: (61 3) 9695 5500. Fax: (61 3) 9696 7259.
Armstrong Dubois Pty Ltd. A.B.N. 29 082 709 741
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Thank you

To our partners, for their financial, organisational
and moral support:

Caritas Australia
CatholicCare
City of Melbourne
Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship
Oxfam Australia
South Sudanese Community Association
Victorian Multicultural Commission

And to the following wonderful people and
organisations who have shared their valuable time
and knowledge with us:

Agnes Cusack
Anna Aristotle
Annie Feith
Athena Nguyen
Aya Ono
Barney Wilson
Ben Murphy
Bill Reiss
Bridie Jones
Bronwyn Tilbury
Bruce Richards
Caitlin Phillips-Peddlesden
Cameron Glover
Camilla Macdonell
Catherine Gayed
Cheryl Webster
Cheryl Wood
Christian Nielsen
Crina Virgona
Daphnée Cook
Elmina Joldic
Elysia Delaine
Glen Scott
Glenda Cooen
Glenys Adams
Hannah Lewis
Harry Minas
Helen O'Kane
Helen Szoke
Isadora Quay

Jacquie Wise
James Carpenter
Joanna Hayter
John Altmann
John Ball
Kate McFarlane
Katia Rotar
Kelly Nicholls
Kuang Ping Chang
Lensa Dinka
Les Terry
Louise Oliff
Madelyn Eads-Dorsey
Marama Kufi
Marc Purcell
Marta Kreiser
Matthew Phillips
Melville Fernandez
Nicole Bieske
Olivia Zinzan
Rob Wood
Rodney Price
Ruth Friedman
Stephanie Cousins
Sue Woodward
Suzy McIntyre
Voula Sarhanis
Zakia Baig

Benetas, Brotherhood of St Laurence and Ecumenical Resource Centre, Grill'd, Office Works, RMIT, Victoria University, Victoria Police, Initiatives of Change

And to Brendan Ross, who came up with the excellent idea of founding Diaspora Action Australia in the first place.

This annual report was produced by:

Editorial team: Mia Wotherspoon (coordinating editor), Amy Rashap, Suzanne McKenzie, Diana Rincon
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diaspora action australia

Level 4 Ross House
247 Flinders Lane
Melbourne VIC 3000
Australia

info@diasporaaction.org.au
www.diasporaaction.org.au
ABN: 67 754 968 942