



Annual Report 2013 -14



# Contents

Vision, mission, principles and strategic goals .....	4
Letter from the Chair & Director.....	5
Our year in numbers.....	6

Cover photo: *Bontu Workneh Mulisa, OSGA member.*

Inside cover photo: *Australian planning volunteer and locals discuss drainage and housing options for a village in Manna, Sri Lanka.*

Back cover photo: *Ayane Iamessa Galata, OSGA member.*



## COMMUNITY

Women Leading Change.....	8
Meet our partners .....	10
Strengthening the advocacy voice of diaspora groups.....	15
Diaspora research a first for Australia .....	16

## ABOUT US

Theory of Change .....	18
Growing our organisation .....	19
Faces of DAA .....	20
The team .....	22

## FINANCE.....23

Thank you .....	27
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# 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 (formerly Humanitarian Crisis Hub) 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 and Director



**W**elcome to the first annual report from Diaspora Action Australia (DAA). After six years as the Humanitarian Crisis Hub we changed to a name that better reflects who we are and what we do. Our new name puts diasporas first and emphasises action. Around our logo you'll also see the words "Peace. Development. Human Rights." – three critical areas of focus for DAA and our partners.

It has been very inspiring over the past year to work with our partner organisations. They are writing submissions to United Nations consultative commissions, raising public awareness about human rights and humanitarian crises, and are meeting with the Australian government to discuss Australia's contributions to peace and security in their countries of origin. Other organisations have built schools, furnished hospital wards, and provided housing and education to empower children made homeless by conflict. To strengthen this work, DAA provides them with the advice, training and mentoring they request.

However this is only part of the picture. For diasporas to contribute effectively to peace, development and human rights in their countries of origin they also need to engage with the people and institutions in Australia that work on these issues – the Australian government and aid and development non-governmental organisations (NGOs) – and have input into policy discussions. Over the past year we have

seen increased interest in diasporas, as seen in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (DFAT) new strategy for Public Diplomacy which identifies diasporas as key stakeholders. DFAT's willingness to dialogue was evident in June, when DAA hosted a roundtable discussion between DFAT's Africa desk and 18 African diaspora leaders from 11 organisations. Building these links between diaspora organisations, government and other agencies is an area of work we will be focussing more on in the coming year, so diasporas can add their perspectives to policy debates. We will continue to foster the involvement of women, building on the successes of the Women Leading Change Network.

Diaspora Action Australia has also begun research to document the value-add of diaspora-led organisations, which we hope will contribute to a greater understanding, in Australia and internationally, of diaspora-led development and peacebuilding.

Diaspora organisations are complementary actors in the aid and development sphere. They have transnational networks, close connections to communities, intimate understandings of the political, cultural, economic and social environments they work in – both in Australia and their countries of origin – and the flexibility for innovation. It makes sense to engage with them.

**Denise Cauchi**, Director  
**Damian Facciolo**, Chair

# Our year in numbers:

July 1, 2013 – June 3, 2014

56

diaspora groups and organisations have accessed our programs

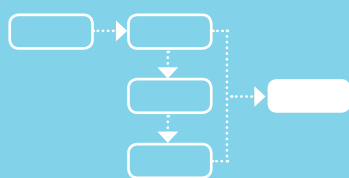


Our 9 partner organisations work in 7 countries



173

women were involved in the WOMEN LEADING CHANGE NETWORK



We created a Theory of Change to show how our projects achieve change



international development organisations attended our events



DAA became a full member of Australian Council for International Development (ACFID)



government officials attended DAA events

Humanitarian Crisis Hub turned 5 and became Diaspora Action Australia

7% of our volunteers are from refugee or asylum seeker backgrounds and of 68% were born outside Australia



43%

increased reach on Facebook



# Community

*Diaspora:*  
people who have  
left, but maintain ties  
with, their original  
homeland





# Women Leading Change

Since its inception in December 2012, the Women Leading Change (WLC) network has provided a platform for women from backgrounds of conflict to meet and share their experiences and achievements, as well as their ambitions for change.

The WLC network offers access to resources, information and skill-building to help women from diverse cultural, social and religious backgrounds in their promotion of peace, justice and human rights.

Originally founded in Melbourne in 2012, the WLC network has also been active in Sydney since early 2013 and more and more women are discovering the strength to be found in sharing resources and skills. The groups hold bi-monthly forums, often featuring guest speakers who share expertise in areas of leadership, development and advocacy.

A member of WLC Sydney says she believes that women – regardless of their background – share gendered experiences that unite them over cultural, national and religious borders. “Most groups of women share similar problems and it’s good to be able to come together and share resources and ideas”, she says.

International Women’s Day presented a special opportunity for the WLC groups in both Sydney and Melbourne to celebrate and share their work with the public. The 2014 celebrations were very successful with a range of speakers appearing for audience-interactive sessions in both cities.

In Melbourne the International Women’s Day event also hosted a performance by the Iranian Women’s Choir, led by WLC participant Rosa Vasseghi. An author and human rights activist working with Iranian refugees, Rosa says she joined WLC to meet other women from whom she could learn.

“I have always been interested to learn how you can live in a different country and still help women in the country you were born”, she says. “I came from an Iranian society where most women don’t have any kind of freedom. But at the same time I grew up in a Baha’i family, and in Baha’i society women are equal with men.”

Rosa reflects on the importance of a network like this: “I believe through the network we learn from each other, learn how to become independent and get more power. Communication educates women to build their confidence, to become part of Australian society. The women feel great to see other women leaders”.

“

Most groups of women share similar problems and it's good to be able to come together and share resources and ideas ”

WLC MEMBER



*Julie Owens, MP, (third from left), with members of the Kurdish diaspora in Sydney.*

Through training provided by WLC, Rosa says she is also more confident in her ability to approach organisations and government and to make that approach more effective, as well as how to work with the media.

A media workshop held by WLC Sydney in 2013 proved useful straight away. The leader of the workshop was working for Channel 7 and invited participant Sam Pari from Australian Tamil Congress to be interviewed for a story they were producing on sexual violence in Sri Lanka. The story was later featured in the Saturday Morning Show.

Through advocacy training WLC members have also acquired skills in communicating with decision makers. So far the groups have had the chance to meet with politicians such as Maria Vamvakinou, Member for Calwell, Victoria, who was invited to an advocacy training in Melbourne, and Julie Owens, Member for Parramatta, who attended the International Women's Day event in Sydney.

WLC member Luse Kinivuwei is a Fijian Australian active in the lobby group Concerned Fiji Australians, as well as a Treasurer of the Darfur Australia Network, which is one of DAA's partner organisations. Luse says the workshops – particularly on grant writing, advocacy and gender – have been invaluable to her in her work.

She says the advocacy training was useful when Concerned Fiji Australians successfully organised a meeting with the advisor to Minister for Foreign Affairs Julie Bishop. With advocacy skills learnt at WLC workshops, the group also met with representatives from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to discuss their issues of concern.

Luse says that she enjoys the interaction with women from other diaspora communities and the opportunity to learn first-hand about issues and human rights abuses in other countries. "They always express enthusiasm and commitment to their cause", Luse says. "Their

passion and dedication to end the human rights abuse and crisis in their country of origin is admirable and infectious."

Lul Ibrahim is one of the WLC members representing the Ogaden community, and she's been a member of the organisation from the start. Before joining WLC, Lul and her Ogaden colleagues participated in workshop events with DAA and it was here Lul got introduced to WLC.

“Communication educates women to build their confidence, to become part of Australian society”  
- ROSA VASSEGGHI



*WLC members Rosa Vasseghi and Lensa Dinka.*

She says that the Ogaden community group initially struggled with advocating their cause, and had few opportunities to create awareness of human rights issues in Ogaden (Ethiopia) outside their own community. Through their involvement with WLC, Lul and her community have been able to give presentations to a much wider audience and she especially mentions how learning to use social networking has helped them to reach out to more people. By joining WLC, she says she could be "involved with women from other countries and learn what they are going through, and be part of the wider Australian community".

# Meet our partners

At Diaspora Action Australia we are proud to work closely with eight organisations, representing diasporas originating from areas of conflict around the globe. From promoting awareness and spreading information, to projects like building schools and furnishing hospitals, these organisations work tirelessly to promote peace, development and human rights. Through their projects these organisations affect the lives of thousands of people every year and we are honoured to assist them in this work.



## Mamaland Hope for Future Foundation

Based in Melbourne, Mamaland Hope for Future Foundation helps women and children in South Sudan with education and work opportunities in the wake of many years of conflict.

The group was founded by 15 South Sudanese Australian women who found that women and children were the groups left furthest behind after the second Sudanese civil war ended in 2005. The conflict displaced at least four million people who, upon their return, were faced with the challenge of rebuilding their communities. As an estimated two million people were killed as a result of 22 years of conflict, many women were widowed and many children orphaned.

Without access to income, or even information about how to improve their situation, these women and children are often unable to help themselves and their families. This is why

Mamaland not only focus on human rights but the rights of women and children particularly.

"We've seen the struggle and the needs in South Sudan. Coming to Australia and finding all the hope, and learning how to give, we said 'We need to take action'", says Assistant Secretary General Rose Elias.

The highlight of the organisation's work during the last year was the successful delivery of a shipping container filled with hospital and educational supplies to South Sudan. This delivery furnished the entire maternity ward in the Juba Teaching Hospital with 28 hospital beds and other medical items. It also included education materials for schools, 10 computers and six sewing machines. Computer classes for women are already being offered through the Catholic Church in Juba, and sewing classes are due to start in late 2014.

Back in Australia, DAA helped this young and vibrant organisation with fundraising events planning and skills building workshops.



*From left: Victoria Lolika, President, Rose Elias, Assistant Secretary General, and Stella Lado, Vice President.*



## Bridging Lanka

Heading in to its fifth year of operation, Bridging Lanka (formerly Diaspora Lanka), continue their work to bridge Sri Lanka's ethnic, religious and geographical divide through grounded, people-inspired action. Today Bridging Lanka have members from around Australia working together on projects in the north-western district of Mannar.

The organisation's resources are divided between livelihood support, business development, urban improvement and social cohesion. The past year saw these areas of work come together with the initiation of a tourism strategy, aiming to make Mannar the new destination of choice for visitors. The main objective of this project is to create employment



*Official opening of the Mannar rice mill.*

opportunities and much-needed income for the local population. In addition to the tourism project, Bridging Lanka also set up a rice mill to support micro-business development as part of a Women's Livelihood Program.

"Diaspora Action [Australia] has been a wonderful practical support in improving our capacity to deliver these quality aid processes to benefit the Sri Lankan community, both in Australia and Sri Lanka", says Director Jeremy Liyanage.

In the next year Bridging Lanka plan to continue their support of local women through the establishment of a catering company run by war widows.

## Afghan Australian Development Organisation

Afghan Australian Development Organisation (AADO) work in community development and education in Afghanistan. Established in 2002, AADO offer education and training opportunities to thousands of Afghans, all over the country.

Since 2007 AADO has trained 1393 in-service secondary science and mathematics teachers across four provinces; 624 in-service tertiary science and mathematics master trainers across five provinces; 1050 women have graduated from AADO's 12-month Life Skills Program; and 38 young men have attained trade level skills in carpentry.

*AADO Executive Director Nouria Salehi works for the education of women and girls.*

Within Australia AADO support refugees and immigrants, and host events to promote awareness of the humanitarian issues that face the Afghan people.

DAA have provided support with fundraising and volunteer recruitment in 2013-14.





South Sudan

## Peace Palette

Working in war-torn South Sudan, Peace Palette work to create a sustainable society by drawing on local skills and knowledge. Since their foundation in 2010 they've built the Nhomlau Children's Centre for orphaned and abandoned children in the settlement of Turalei, where they provide food, shelter and basic education to 200 children.

Last year Peace Palette received enough funding to establish a community garden that Director David Nyuol Vincent hopes will soon function as an alternative to receiving food from the World Food Programme.

"The kids we took in from the street were used to begging for food. We want to teach them how to be independent and self-sufficient", says David.

Teaching the next generation to be self-reliant is as much about practical knowledge as it is about mentality.

"Our original idea was to help the community to move away from receiving to provide for themselves, and that's what we're coming back to now", says David.

Last year DAA assisted Peace Palette in creating their first annual report, an important step for a young organisation looking to apply for grants to support future projects.

DAA also helped plan a very successful fundraiser that will see the centre in Turalei upgraded with a dormitory for girls.

*David Nyuol Vincent with students at the Nhomlau Children's Centre.*





*Guiir Baai have established the first primary school in Aweng district.*



## Guiir Baai

Guiir Baai is the most recent of Diaspora Action Australia's partners. Clement Deng founded the organisation three years ago with the belief that universal education is the key to ending the long-running conflict in South Sudan.

He decided to start a school in the Aweng district of Warrap State. He negotiated a long-term lease on some land and found three teachers to teach children under a tree. "If I hadn't started under the tree a long time ago I wouldn't be where I am today," he says. Guiir Baai have now erected three temporary classrooms and are raising funds to build a permanent school building.

Donations from the South Sudanese community in Australia enabled projects like installing an

onsite water pump, allowing the children to stay in school all day, and paying the teachers. Clement hopes that the partnership with DAA will help to raise the profile of his organisation and connect it with avenues to funding and necessary skills and expertise.

For Clement, education is about much more than learning your ABC. In a fractured country like South Sudan, he sees the school as a place to initiate larger peace projects.

At DAA we are proud to have assisted Guiir Baai with communications capacity building and the update of the organisation's website. With improved communications tools and skills, Guiir Baai will continue to make a difference in the lives of South Sudanese children.

## Darfur Australia Network

The Darfur Australia Network (DAN) are a community-based advocacy organisation focused on raising awareness of the continuing tragedy in the Darfur region of Sudan. In addition to spreading information and building solidarity between Australian and Darfuri communities, DAN also assist in the process of resettlement of Darfuri refugees.

The volunteers at DAN work tirelessly to share the stories of those forced to flee their home due to violence and prosecution. They also assist other organisations, who share their vision of peace, justice and reconciliation in Darfur, to improve their advocacy skills. In November 2013 they hosted a Peace Festival to mark the 10-year anniversary of the conflict in Darfur.

In the past year, DAN's advocacy has centred on Australia's membership of the United Nations

Security Council, to influence international action for enduring peace in Darfur.

DAN members are also active in public campaigns and events to ensure the Australian public does not forget the atrocities that are still occurring in the Darfur region.

Over the past year DAA assisted DAN with advocacy training and helped with the planning of a public event.

*DAN's XXX and Mohamed Khalil raise awareness about the humanitarian crisis in Darfur.*





*Dabesa Wakjira and OSGA colleagues produced a submission to the United Nations in 2013.*

## Oromia Support Group Australia

With its 30 million members, the Oromo people make up the single largest ethnic group in Ethiopia. The Oromia Support Group Australia (OSGA) – a branch of the international Oromia Support Group – work to promote awareness of the human rights of the Oromo and other oppressed peoples in Ethiopia. They also run cultural events and support Ethiopian refugees in Australia.

This year the OSGA worked with the London-based OSG to submit a report to the United Nations Universal Periodic Review on Ethiopia and produced a submission on Oromo and other Ethiopians living in refugee situations in the Horn of Africa, as part of the Australian Refugee Rights

Alliance submission to the 2014 UNHCR-NGO consultations.

They also applied for Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) – if successful they will have access to ECOSOC, its subsidiary bodies and to the various UN human rights mechanisms, and can be accredited to participate in the Human Rights Council's sessions as observers.

The advocacy focus of OSGA means that they are frequently lobbying and rallying for their cause. DAA assists with ongoing support and mentoring in areas such as advocacy strategy, media and social media training, project planning and grant writing.

## Care4Congo

The Democratic Republic of Congo is one of the most war stricken countries in the world. Since the Congolese civil wars began in 1996, it is estimated that up to 5.4 million people have died as a result of war, malnutrition and diseases such as malaria. Nearly half of these victims were children.

Care4Congo is a Melbourne-based organisation supporting Congolese migrants and refugees in Australia and working to promote awareness of the humanitarian crisis that is still very much a reality for DRC's 68 million inhabitants.

An ongoing project for the organisation is to set up a community centre in Goma, near the Rwandan border, to allow people to gather,

share stories and plan the rebuilding of their community. Last year DAA held a project-planning workshop together with Care4Congo, to lay down the roadmap for continuous work on the Goma project.

DAA have also assisted Care4Congo by training the organisation in volunteer coordination, as well as working to create a fundraiser and cultural event aimed at raising funds for their projects and raising awareness of the situation in DRC.

*Clyde Sharady and George Kabengele are working to establish a community centre in DRC.*





# Strengthening the advocacy voice of diaspora groups

In May 2014, 18 representatives from 11 African diaspora organisations held a meeting with Adam McCarthy, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs's (DFAT) Africa Branch, to discuss development and human rights issues in Africa. In his presentation, Adam acknowledged the importance of people-to-people links – over 300,000 Australians are of African origin – and noted the significant role of diaspora groups in keeping Africa on the Australian government's agenda.

Diaspora leaders from Darfuri, South Sudanese, Democratic Republic of Congo, Oromo and Pan African organisations then took the floor, presenting key issues covering: peace building and reconciliation; humanitarian aid; education; maternal, child and mental health; human rights and knowledge exchange; and infrastructure, business linkages and private sector investment. Key recommendations were then presented to DFAT.

The meeting was a valuable opportunity for the diaspora organisations to share their experience and knowledge, especially as most of them were operating projects in Africa, and provided an opportunity for the organisations to express their strong desire for more regular consultations and meaningful input into Australia's policy and programming in Africa. In response, Adam McCarthy expressed his willingness to participate in further meetings with the African diaspora, and Diaspora Action Australia expect to bring this plan to fruition in early 2015.

Through hosting meetings like this, DAA continue our work to link diaspora, government

“

We were so happy to be able to put forward our common messages in this way and even more, Adam is happy to come back! ”

- PEACE PALETTE



From left: Stella Lado, Mamaland, Adam McCarthy, DFAT, and Victoria Lolika, President of Mamaland.

“

I think it was a great opportunity for African diaspora groups to communicate with high level government authorities... the meeting you organised does help to let the government know what diaspora groups are thinking and doing, and what resources they can bring to the table, in case the government wants to engage with them to help improve how it engages with Africa. ”

- CLYDE SALUMU SHARADY,  
AFRICAN MEDIA AUSTRALIA LTD.

and development sectors and advocate for greater diaspora inclusion in policy debates and decision-making.

Another structure that DAA have established to strengthen the links between diasporas, governments and NGOs is the Women Leading Change network (see article on page 8). Successful connections were made in December 2013, when the Melbourne WLC network heard a presentation by Maria Vamvakinou MP, Federal Member for Calwell (VIC), under the heading Advocacy Under the New Government, while Julie Owens MP, Federal Member for Parramatta (NSW), participated in the Sydney event for International Women's Day in 2014. Other guest speakers over the past year have included representatives of CARE, Oxfam Australia, International Women's Development Agency and ActionAid.

Connecting diaspora organisations with local and federal governments, as well as with national and international NGOs, contributes to DAA's vision of an Australia where diaspora communities from countries in war and conflict have a strong voice and the power to promote change.



*David Nyuol Vincent, Peace Palette, and Rose Elias, Assistant Secretary General, Mamaland.*

## Diaspora research a first for Australia

Diaspora organisations around the world are actively involved in peace building, humanitarian aid, development, post-conflict reconstruction and human rights promotion in their countries of origin. There are an increasing number of initiatives in Europe, the UK and the US that support diaspora-led development, backed by a growing body of research in this area. In Australia, the growing interest in engaging with diasporas is tempered by uncertainty about how they operate, who to engage with and how their unique strengths can be harnessed and supported. In order to better understand diaspora activity in Australia, DAA have begun a research project that documents case studies of five African diaspora organisations.

The organisations participating in the study are: the Darfur Community Association of Australia in conjunction with the Darfur Australia Network (Sudan), Mamaland (South Sudan), Oromia Support Group Australia (OSG, Ethiopia), Peace Palette (South Sudan) and Wec Nyin (South Sudan). These organisations are all well established in Australia, and are currently implementing activities – either advocacy or project based – related to their country of origin.

Preliminary findings show diaspora organisations to be innovative actors in the aid and development space, in their understanding of the political and social context, unparalleled connections to community, impressive mobilisation capacity, and remarkable ability to create value for money – simply put, the “bang per buck” of diaspora-led projects is extraordinary. They harness their networks in Australia, in their countries of origin and with their diaspora counterparts around the world to implement projects that are culturally appropriate and responsive to community needs.

This research is the first of its kind in Australia. It is anticipated that publication of the report will raise awareness in the academic, government, development and human-rights spheres in regards to diaspora organisations’ valuable and diverse contributions in their countries of origin.

Operating as DAA do at the cutting edge of diaspora engagement – only a few similar European projects are currently operating in this fast-growing field – this report can provide a basis for further research into diaspora engagement models.

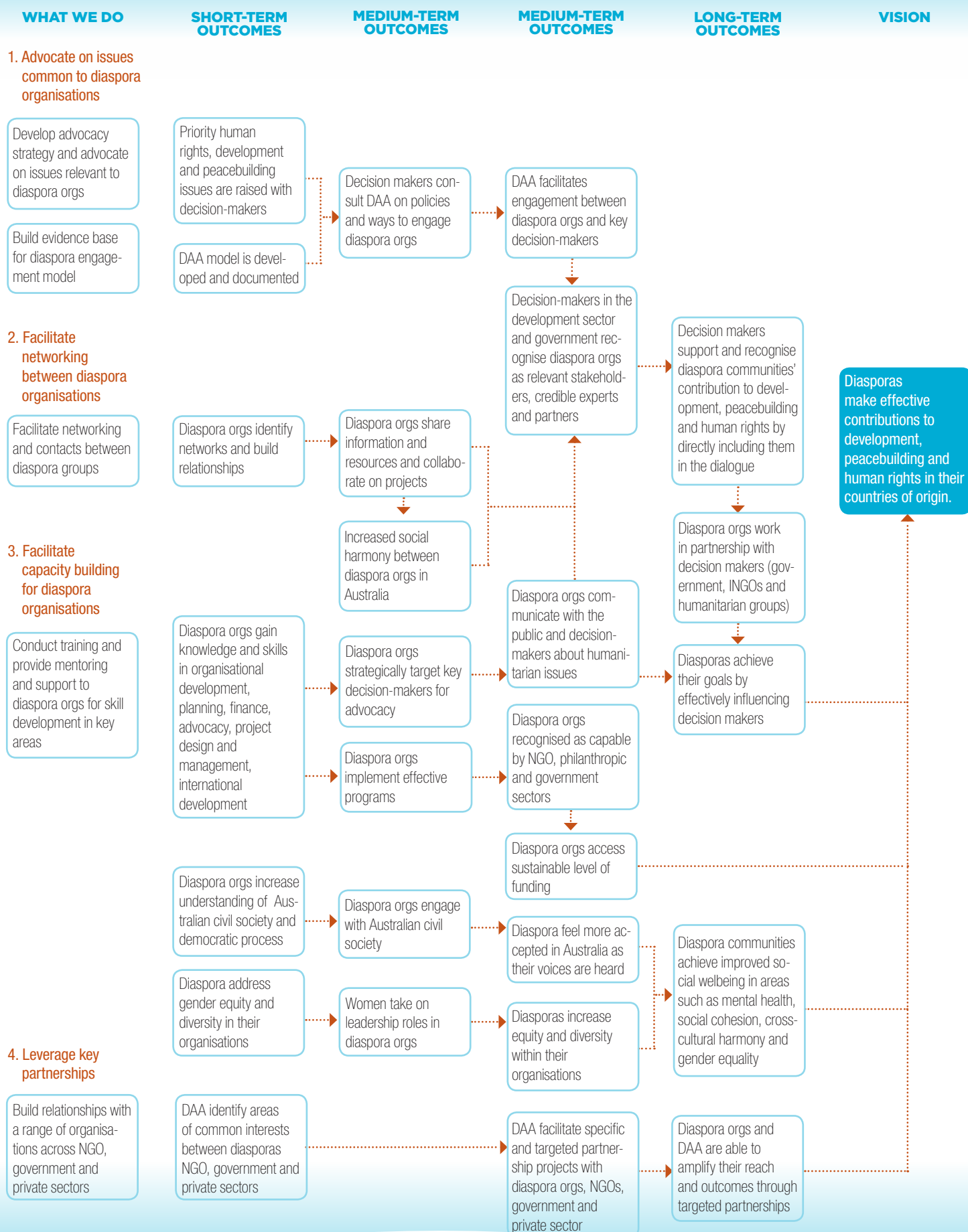


# About Us

“Volunteering overseas has helped me develop professional skills I thought I would never have, as well as growing personally and always being surrounded by really nice people.”

*Xalteva Gonzalez,  
DAA volunteer*

# Diaspora Action Australia Theory of Change





# Growing our organisation



*Friends of DAA celebrate our 5th birthday. From left: Paul Power, CEO, Refugee Council of Australia; Marama Kufi, OSGA; Alice Abalo, Mamaland; Adam Bandt, Federal Member for Melbourne; and DAA volunteers past and present Targol Khorram, Saheem Wani, Christina Taylor and Belinda O'Connor.*

This year has been a busy one inside DAA. Shortly after our 5th birthday we changed our name, developed a Theory of Change, and established a Friends of DAA network.

## A new name:

We decided that we wanted to change our name to better reflect who we are and what we do. The word 'diaspora' had to be part of the name, even though it's not a household word in Australia - yet. So what does it mean anyway?

'Diaspora' comes from the ancient Greek word *diaspeirein*, meaning 'to disperse'. It refers to people who leave their home country (whether forcibly or by choice) and settle in other parts of the world. Crucially, they are people who feel connected to and maintain ties with their countries of origin. It also implies

connection with other people of the same diaspora internationally - to be part of a diaspora is to be part of a transnational network.

The other part of the name change is a new descriptive tagline in the logo, which describes the issues we work on: 'peace, development, human rights'. So, the name and tagline together cover our essential identity: we support diasporas who take action in Australia on peace, development and human rights in their countries of origin.

## Theory of Change:

This enables us to clearly explain the connection between what we do and the change we want to see in the world, and all the steps in between. A summarised version can be seen in the diagram on the opposite page.

## Friends of DAA:

Since our establishment in 2008 we have made many friends. These are colleagues, diaspora partners as well as staff and volunteers who have moved on to begin new chapters in their lives. The Friends of DAA network is a way of keeping in touch with all these wonderful people through social media as well as through face-to-face social gatherings several times a year. The first event was held in December to mark DAA's five years of operation and announce the new name. Federal Member for Melbourne, Adam Bandt, joined the celebration along with around 50 Friends. This was followed by a second gathering in February, and it has been wonderful to reconnect with the people who have helped DAA grow into the organisation it is today. These events now happen three times a year, so please join us!

# Faces of DAA

- meet some of the volunteers that make it all happen



**TANIA ARELLANES LICEA**  
Social Media Coordinator,  
2013-14

Tania came to Australia in 2012 to study a Masters of International Development at Melbourne University, then completed a Masters of Global Media Communication in 2013. She began working with DAA in late 2013 in the social media department, immediately bringing a new style to the organisation's Facebook and Twitter presence with a heavy focus on graphic content and

infographics in an effort to create more engaging and shareable material. "What I like about DAA is the strong network of volunteers it has", Tania says. "For me it was admirable the level of professionalism, commitment and organisation of the volunteer program."

She is interested in continuing to work in the social media communication area after finishing study and says, "This experience with DAA has provided me with strong skills and values to pursue work in this field. I've learnt so much about the significant role of the comms department for an NGO - the importance of having a committed and communicative team, an organised team leader and the ability to think outside the box in order to propose new and creative ways to innovate in communication."



**TARGOL KHORRAM**  
Project Officer, 2013

Targol came to Australia as a skilled migrant with several years' experience in architecture but was unable to find any employment on arrival. She began volunteering with DAA as her first local work experience.

"The most important thing was that it helped me gain my confidence back. People trusting me by giving me responsibilities helped me a lot in the process of believing that I can do things. Volunteering helped me to be confident enough to contact other people and organisations and build a network which eventually helped me in finding work."

Targol spent eight months volunteering for DAA, after which time she was offered a full time position as project consultant at Queen Victoria Market.



“As a recent graduate, working at DAA gives me a chance to work on projects and extend my skills beyond what I would otherwise be able to do. The workplace is supportive and dynamic, and fosters critical insights into the field of international development.”

- BELINDA O'CONNOR





### JOE SELVARETNAM

Board Secretary, 2009–2014,

Joe met DAA's Managing Director, Denise Cauchi, at a human rights workshop organised by DAA and was impressed enough with the potential of the organisation's mission that he offered his services. Having worked in the non-profit development sector for most of his career, Joe brought extensive

experience to his Board position.

Joe says working in Malaysia in the area of HIV/AIDS as an ethics advocate and later head of programs "was a valuable experience in understanding in the need for people-centred development and the value in empowerment of communities to lead the change of their own circumstances."

Since arriving in Australia six years ago, Joe has worked at an Ombudsman's office and been involved in several initiatives to better service 'hard-to-reach' communities and says his experience with DAA has been a positive input into this work.



“DAA empowers volunteers through trainings and workshops offered by ACFID [Australian Council for International Development] as well as the responsibilities we take on.”

- ZAWADI NGUMA

### RUHIE KUMAR

Communications Content Coordinator, 2011.

During her time at DAA Ruhie worked on the quarterly newsletter and the Stories of Survival project. She now works in digital mobilisation

for Greenpeace India and says she developed many of the skills needed for her current job while volunteering with DAA.

"What I liked most was that everyone at DAA wanted to learn and create something

unique from a small and resourceful bunch of people", Ruhie says. "It's extremely important to have a space where refugees and migrant communities can have a dialogue with the hosting country's representatives. DAA provides that space."

“Volunteering with DAA is an opportunity for me not only to put into practice my theoretical skills as a community development student but also, coming from the other side of the world [Burundi], to be exposed to a different perspective of how development work is carried out within the Australian context.”

- LIANA NZABAMPEMA



# 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, 2014:

Chair	: <b>Damian Facciolo</b>
Deputy Chair	: <b>Jez Hunghanfoo</b>
Secretary	: <b>Joe Selvaretnam</b>
Treasurer	: <b>Jamie Chu</b>
Member	: <b>Nuran Higgins</b>
Member	: <b>Hala Abdelnour</b>
Advisor to the Board	: <b>Sue Woodward</b>
During 2013-14	: <b>Serina McDuff</b>
	Deputy Chair until 30.10.2013 and <b>Essan Dileri</b> (until 1.11.2013)

## Operational Team

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

Director	: <b>Denise Cauchi</b>
Volunteer Coordinator	: <b>Nicky Reiss</b>
Community Coordinator	: <b>Lisa Vettori</b> (until Feb 2014) <b>David Nyuol Vincent</b> (from Feb 2014)
Financial advisors	: <b>Lin Sun and</b> <b>John James</b>

## Volunteers

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

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

<b>Anna Donaldson</b>	<b>Eliza Hovey</b>	<b>Leonie Munk</b>	<b>Stefan Mungherli</b>
<b>Adriana Bernardo</b>	<b>Eloa Beniti</b>	<b>Liana Nzabampema</b>	<b>Sudarshi De Mel</b>
<b>Ahmad Khorrambakhsh</b>	<b>Evelina Gyulkhandanyan</b>	<b>Lual Maker Lual</b>	<b>Sue Esme Chaplin</b>
<b>Aisha Adnan</b>	<b>Fabiana Massoquette</b>	<b>Lucie Goutagny</b>	<b>Tania Arellanes Licea</b>
<b>Alan Mountain</b>	<b>Gabrielle Innes</b>	<b>Luisa de Campo</b>	<b>Targol Khorram</b>
<b>Alexander Kaginyan</b>	<b>Gina Mumba</b>	<b>Luke Papatheohari</b>	<b>Temur Rezaie</b>
<b>Anna Potenza</b>	<b>Hanna Jacobsen</b>	<b>Maddison Cassidy</b>	<b>Thanh Chau Quach</b>
<b>Ashita Saluja</b>	<b>Hannah Peake</b>	<b>Madelyn Eads-Dorsey</b>	<b>Tina Chiang</b>
<b>Ashraf Hosseini</b>	<b>Isadora Quay</b>	<b>Madhu Sudan</b>	<b>Van Khoa Pham</b>
<b>Behnam Khamisi</b>	<b>Jacob Wahba</b>	<b>Moein Mehroliassani</b>	<b>Varuni Bala</b>
<b>Belinda O'Connor</b>	<b>Jane Billings</b>	<b>Oluwatobi Folorunso</b>	<b>Vulong Hoang</b>
<b>Cara Dixon</b>	<b>Jarrold Bosanko</b>	<b>Prasad Hettiarachchi</b>	<b>Wen Shi</b>
<b>Chris Nash</b>	<b>Jean-Noel Melotte</b>	<b>Richard Dean</b>	<b>Xaltega Quetzali-</b>
<b>Christina Taylor</b>	<b>Jimmy Mo</b>	<b>Ryhan Binte Mohd Yazid</b>	<b>Gonzalez Buitrago</b>
<b>Cigdem Serce</b>	<b>Jodie Martire</b>	<b>Saheem Wani</b>	<b>Zawadi Nguma</b>
<b>Claire Rosslyn Willson</b>	<b>Justine Curatolo</b>	<b>Sanaz Mirmoshtaghi</b>	<b>Zin Lin Tun</b>
<b>Dale Simons</b>	<b>Justine Vaisutis</b>	<b>Sarah Thomson Shabana</b>	
<b>David Fiorovanti</b>	<b>Kelly Nicholls</b>	<b>Shah</b>	
<b>Edie Stevens</b>	<b>Kristien Quintiens</b>		

## Pro bono consultants

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

**Anna Aristotle** - Coaching For Growth

**Lucy Cole**, Telstra Legal

**Ruth Friedman**, The Thread Consulting

**Megan McCormack**

**Fionn Skiotis**



# Financial

*Diaspora:* People who have spread or been displaced from their homeland as well as their subsequent generations

## Financial Overview

The year ended 30 June 2014 was initially a financially challenging year for Diaspora Action Australia, however income received in the second half of the year considerably improved the financial outlook. Overall, the organisation recorded a deficit of \$22,049, compared with a surplus of \$16,173 for the year ended 30 June 2013. The total revenue for 2014 was \$313,417, and the total expenditure for 2014 was \$335,466. In this financial statement,

we have recognised non-monetary income and expenditure for the first time - this amount is \$162,560. In FY12/13 non-monetary income and expenditure were only declared in the financial statement notes. The project grants for 2014 totalled \$145,755, which represents a 25% decrease on 2013. The total equity for 2014 was \$31,534 which is a decrease of \$22,049 compared with the previous financial year.

## Income Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2014

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
REVENUE		
Donations and gifts		
Monetary	1,946	16,793
Non - monetary (Note 3)	162,560	-
Grants	145,755	194,143
Other Income	3,157	4,223
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>313,417</b>	<b>215,159</b>
EXPENDITURE		
International programs	-	-
Community education	25,005	56,865
Fundraising costs	722	1,190
Accountability and Administration	22,302	16,332
Non-Monetary Expenditure (Note 3)	162,560	-
Domestic Programs Expenditure	124,877	124,600
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>335,466</b>	<b>198,986</b>
<b>EXCESS/(SHORTFALL) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>(22,049)</b>	<b>16,173</b>

## 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](http://www.acfid.asn.au)

### Note 2

For a copy of the full financial report for the year ending 30 June 2014 please go to our website [www.diasporaaction.org.au](http://www.diasporaaction.org.au) or contact [info@diasporaaction.org.au](mailto:info@diasporaaction.org.au) or phone 03 90958588

### Note 3

Non-monetary Income and Expenditure In FY13/14, volunteers contributed 5729 hours which is valued at AUD 140,532, and consultants contributed pro bono work valued at AUD 22,028. The total Non-Monetary Income and Expenditure FY13/14 is AUD 162,560.

## Summary Balance Sheet

as at 30 June 2014

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	127,910	61,026
Trade and other receivables	12,376	12,125
Inventories	-	-
Assets held for sale	-	-
Other financial assets	-	-
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>140,286</b>	<b>73,151</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Trade and other receivables	-	-
Other financial assets	-	-
Property, plant and equipment	3,813	5,191
Investment property	-	-
Intangibles	-	-
Other non - current assets	-	-
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>3,813</b>	<b>5,191</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>144,099</b>	<b>78,342</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Trade and other payables	21,420	11,018
Borrowings	-	-
Current tax liabilities	-	-
Other financial liabilities	-	-
Provisions	5,936	9,691
Other	81,173	4,050
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>108,529</b>	<b>24,759</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Borrowings	-	-
Other financial liabilities	-	-
Provisions	4,036	-
Other	-	-
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>4,036</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>112,565</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>31,534</b>	<b>24,759</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Reserves	-	-
Retained Earnings	31,534	53,583
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>31,534</b>	<b>53,583</b>

## Statement Of Changes In Equity

for the year ended 30 June 2014

	Retained Earnings \$	Reserves \$	Total \$
<b>BALANCE 1 JULY 2013</b>	<b>53,583</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>53,583</b>
Adjustments or changes in equity	0	-	0
Items of other comprehensive income	0	-	0
(Shortfall) of revenue over expenses	(22,049)	-	(22,049)
Amount transferred (to) from reserves	-	-	0
<b>BALANCE 30 JUNE 2014</b>	<b>31,534</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>31,534</b>

## ACFID Member and signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct



**ACFID**  
MEMBER

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](http://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 on (03)9095 8589 or [denise@diasporaaction.org.au](mailto:denise@diasporaaction.org.au)

## Table of cash movement for designated purposes

for the year ended 30 June 2014

	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	-	30,000	30,000	-
Oxfam Australia - Core operations	-	29,273	29,273	-
Oxfam Australia - South Sudan training	1,000	-	1,000	-
City of Melbourne - Mentoring and training for community groups	3,050	34	3,084	-
City of Melbourne - Volunteer support program	-	15,000	7,500	7,500
City of Melbourne - Community organisation mentoring	-	19,489	8,949	10,540
Victorian Multicultural Commission Refugee and migrant women's empowerment and leadership	-	12,000	12,000	-
Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship - Organisational development for sustainability	-	81,836	33,227	48,609
Oxfam - African diaspora research	-	23,776	19,252	4,524
All other purposes	56,976	12,226	12,465	56,737
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>61,026</b>	<b>223,634</b>	<b>156,750</b>	<b>127,910</b>

### 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 should be 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 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014 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:



Damian Facciolo  
Chair



Jez Hinghanfoo  
Deputy Chair

Dated this 22 day of October 2014



### Scope

We have audited the summarized financial report of Diaspora Action Australia Inc. which comprises the Summary balance sheet as at 30 June 2014, 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

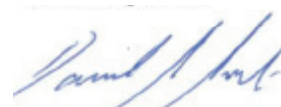
In our opinion Diaspora Action Australia Inc. has complied in material respects with the requirements of Australian Council for International Development Code of Conduct and the information reported in the summarized financial report is consistent with the annual financial report from which it is derived 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.

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.  
Level 5, 70 City Road, Southbank, Vic. 3006 Australia.  
Ph: (61 3) 9695 5500. Fax: (61 3) 9695 7259.

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



Armstrong Dubois



David Armstrong  
Partner

Melbourne  
22 October 2014



# Thank you

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

Oxfam Australia  
Caritas Australia  
City of Melbourne  
Victorian Multicultural Commission  
Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship

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## To the following wonderful people and organisations who have share their valuable time and knowledge with us:

Anna Aristotle	Zawadi Nguma	Glenys Adams
Madeleine Baker	Christian Nielsen	Annie Feith
Allison Kenwood	James Carpenter	Russell Walsh
Adriana Bernardo	Riitta Palasrinne	Cheryl Webster
Daphnée Cook	Matthew Phillips	Barney Wilson
Stephanie Cousins	Rodney Price	Bridie Jones
Elysia Delaine	Marc Purcell	Andrew-Waugh Young
Melville Fernandez	Maree Curtis	
Ruth Friedman	Aya Ono	Benetas
Catherine Gayed	Katia Rohar	Grill'd Degraives St
Nicole Vandelight	Voula Sarhanis	Office Works
Jo Hayter	Kim Selling	RMIT
John James	Fionn Skiotis	Ted's Camera Stores
Megan McCormack	Lin Sun	Telstra Legal
Suzy McIntyre	Tony	Victoria University
Ben Murphy	Lucy Cole	

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

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## This annual report was produced by:

Editorial team	:	Hanna Jacobsen (coordinating editor), Jodie Martire, Sarah Thomson, Belinda O'Connor
Design and production	:	Sudarshi De Mel
Photos	:	Behnam Khamisi, Edwina Stevens and photos courtesy of partner organisations
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