

## **Advocacy Issue – Convention Refugee Rights**

Settlement support is vital for all refugees. Convention refugees (asylum seekers who are successful) received only \$110,000 in resettlement support from the government last year.

Currently Convention Refugees receive a phone call from one desk bound Immigration staff member, for approx. 200 to 250 new Refugees a year. They get no other resettlement support.

## **Changes Needed**

- The Refugee Establishment grant criteria administered via WINZ for Refugees is changed for Convention Refugees to one year from acceptance
- Convention Refugees have access to appropriate mental health support
- There is 6 months support from Red Cross for all Convention Refugees and Family Reunification cases
- Ongoing culturally and linguistically appropriate social work support is available for up to 10 years, as Refugees go through the different stages of resettlement
- Adequate housing is procured, either via Housing NZ or in private market with support if needed
- Permanent Residency is granted within 3 months - many rights are attached to PR and the currently delay of up to, and beyond, 2 years is unacceptable
- Work rights are granted within 2 weeks, for those without a visa when they are accepted, with an allowance paid for this 2 week period.
- Access to student allowance and student loans (Studylink) is immediate upon getting Refugee Status