

GM/ Treasurers Report

I will also do a Treasurers report as our treasurer resigned before the AGM and we have not appointed a replacement.

GM Report

This year has been a year of implementing new programmes and growing the services we provide. We have really concentrated on providing services to our clients. Some of the gains we have had;

- Implementing new interest free loan scheme
- Increasing beds offered to 38
- Increasing staffing hours – we now have 3 registered social workers on staff
- Increasing lived experience in our organisation – we have 4 on the board and 4 on staff from refugee backgrounds
- Small advocacy win increasing allowance for released detainees from \$120 a week to \$225 a week.
- Continued social engagement programme
- Expanded food parcel service to approx. 40 families a week
- Been able to get people released from jail to our hostel
- Implemented new database so all client information is securely stored in one place
- Donation centre set up at Grey Lynn and Avondale

We are proud of these achievements as a team, but there is so much we need to do. Asylum Seekers and Convention Refugees are still the most vulnerable community in New Zealand, excluded from so many rights. Our main points of advocacy are;

- No use of Jail for detention, no detention over 28 days.
- Work rights for all Asylum Seekers who are having their claim assessed
- Convention Refugees get appropriate resettlement support after acceptance

Asylum seekers are still treated as choosing to come to New Zealand, not the forced migrants they are. No one chooses to give everything up in their home land to find a safe place to live for them and their family, and the sooner this is accepted and acknowledged by the government the sooner the treatment of our newest refugees will improve.

This year we hope to consolidate our services, and ensure the implementation of our new services is as good as it can be.

We look after 333 clients from 54 nationalities, and currently do around 850 interventions a month on their behalf, With Work and Income, Food, Immigration and Accommodation being the 4 largest areas of support needed.

We are so fortunate to have welcomed so many new staff members during the year. Each one has come and added to our team, with their culture, learnings and experiences. We can now offer a lot more support in languages our clients speak, and from cultures our clients are familiar with.

To all our team, from our staff, to our board members, to our volunteers – thank you.

And thank you to all our clients for teaching us what resilience, perseverance and a positive outlook really is. We are all in awe of the things you do, and have done, to provide somewhere safe for you and your families to live.

Treasurers Report

This year has seen a turnaround in the finances of ASST. We went from a loss of \$56,000 to a surplus of \$31,000. This while increasing our spend on wages by \$45,000. We increased income from a variety of sources from \$211,000 to \$396,000. The trust has reserves of \$130,000, and grants in advance for this coming year of \$140,000.

The trust has been able to purchase 2 vehicles and a trailer during this period, enabling staff to offer more support to our community clients.

We have started a new social enterprise during the year doing garden maintenance, that has allowed one asylum seeker to learn some skills and supplement their income. Resources allowing, we hope to really concentrate on this venture in the future.

Covid has seen a change in our finances, with a bit more funding around to help in our response, but there has been a lowering of one off donations and a lot of uncertainty.

We greatly value every dollar we receive to help us in our mission and we would like to thank all of our funders. Our members and supporters for their donations and our funders for their grants. Our largest funders, JR McKenzie and Foundation North, are vital to our operations. And the smaller funders like the Lotteries Board, Catholic Caring, Auckland Council, The Trusts, Sir John Logan Campbell Trust, The Funding Network are all very important to ensuring we can offer the level of service we do.

We still have much to do, and will continue to work to diversify our income streams to ensure we are able to continue to operate.