



**EMPOWERING REFUGEE AND MIGRANT CHILDREN  
& YOUTH TO CREATE THEIR OWN OPPORTUNITIES**

**293 CHILDREN AND YOUTH EMPOWERED  
ACROSS 80 PROGRAM SESSIONS  
TOTALING 3,745 HOURS**

234 KIDS RECEIVED  
MATERIAL AID ASSISTANCE

**CONNECTING THEM WITH 74 MENTORS AND  
VOLUNTEERS THAT DEDICATED 11,427 HOURS**

**PARTNERING WITH 7 SCHOOLS AND SETTLEMENT AGENCIES**

**OUR SUPPORTERS HELPED IN-KIND SUPPORT OF \$330K  
RAISE OVER \$134K**

FROM ORGANISATIONS, BUSINESSES  
AND INDIVIDUALS

**WELCOME TO OUR FIRST ANNUAL REPORT**







## 2016-17 ANNUAL REPORT



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### CEO'S MESSAGE

It was a momentous, challenging and rewarding year for RMCC, with us reaching more kids than ever. New partnerships were formed, our passionate team of volunteers grew, new programs commenced and RMCC HQ relocated from our humble space in Footscray to Sunshine, that better places us amongst the families we support in Melbourne's West.

The RMCC journey has been a rollercoaster ride, but one thing that remains is the optimism and resilience of all involved from kids, families, supporters, to the team - our RMCC family. The community we are forming together is a strong one, we are positive and hopeful we can keep creating the change we are all looking for.

This report shows we are on the right track, but it shows that we also need to improve, and we will improve.

It was only a couple of years ago that RMCC was running out of Bobby's and my living room, and we had a small homework club of 25 students running within our first partnering school. Today we have empowered over 550 kids that now call Australia home and ensured they are able to access the opportunities they have the right to do so.

With the next year ahead of us we now need you more than ever.

We need to stand together in reaching 2000 kids by 2020.

It is their right, and together we will make it happen.

*- Alice Wojcik, CEO & Founder*

### ACTING CHAIR'S MESSAGE

This has been an exciting watershed year for RMCC. Financially, a threefold increase in revenues has set the foundation for an expansion in program delivery. We have moved to new premises, provided assistance to 550 children, strengthened the Board of Directors and laid out a clear strategic plan to assist more kids in need.

None of this would be possible without the generous support of our donors and those who provided pro bono support. On behalf of the Board, I thank you all. To the volunteers, you are special people and thank you for your part in making a lasting change to children's lives. To my fellow Directors, thank you for bringing your particular professional expertise to help guide and drive RMCC.

Finally, I want to recognise the inspiration provided by RMCC's founder and co-founder, Alice and Bobby, and the significant personal sacrifices they have selflessly made to make a difference in children's lives.

*- Mark Burton, Acting Chair*

# WHAT IS RMCC?



***We empower refugee and migrant children & youth to create their own opportunities***

Refugee Migrant Children Centre (RMCC) empowers refugee and migrant children and youth to create their own opportunities. We tackle the unique barriers faced during the settlement journey that lead to educational and social disadvantage for kids that now call Australia home.

The RMCC journey started back in 2012 with a homework club and has evolved to us assisting over 553 kids across multiple programs, and by 2020 our goal is to reach over 2000 kids. Our programs have 4 target focus areas: education, identity and belonging, life skills, and mental health and wellbeing. These target areas create confidence, independence, and prioritise wellbeing, so a sense of agency, value and identity can be developed within the broader Australian community.

We're a different kind of charity, functioning outside of the status quo and value being fluid with the changing world around us. We love what we do – and we do it differently by not providing one solution for every child and bringing together the important elements of a child's life to work together: family, school and the community. We see each kid as unique and that means their potential is tapped into uniquely too.

## OUR VALUES

- ★ Equality
- ★ Diversity
- ★ Empowerment
- ★ Respect
- ★ Inclusion
- ★ Community



**“RMCC HAS HAD A HUGE EFFECT ON MY CHILD’S FUTURE SOCIALLY AND ACADEMICALLY”**

**- PARENT OF A RMCC KID**

# WHAT'S UNIQUE ABOUT RMCC?

- RMCC specialises and solely focuses on the educational and social needs of refugee and migrant children aged 5-18 years.
- RMCC establishes and maintains relationships and collaborations between the three key figures in a child's life: family, school and community.
- The kids, families and community are part of the planning & evaluation of our projects.
- Kids work with young mentors with who they can identify
- Programs are tailored to the individual needs of each kid, not the kids moulded to a program.



## OUR STRATEGIC PLAN 2017 - 2020



We are excited and ready to take on the next three years of the RMCC journey and reaching our goal of empowering 2000 kids by 2020. This goal is driven by our five objectives:

### OBJECTIVE ONE

Expand and develop our programs in our four focus areas in the Melbourne metropolitan area, with a core focus on Melbourne's West

### OBJECTIVE TWO

Build a sustainable and trusted organisation for our beneficiaries and donors

### OBJECTIVE THREE

Grow and improve our reputation and stakeholder engagement

### OBJECTIVE FOUR

Consolidate governance of the organisation

### OBJECTIVE FIVE

Increase employee and volunteer engagement



# THE RMCC JOURNEY SO FAR...

**2012:**

RMCC is created.  
Distribution of material  
aid begins.



**2014:**

Homework club established  
at Footscray North Primary  
School



**FEB 2016:**

Learning Support  
Program begins in  
partnership with 5  
different schools



**SEP 2016:**

First School Holiday  
Program is held



**MAY 2017:**

RMCC HQ relocates  
to Sunshine



**30 JUNE 2017:**

553 children empowered



**2013:**

RMCC incorporates  
& registers as  
a charity



**JAN 2016:**

RMCC opens its first HQ  
in Footscray & begins  
running its programs  
independently



**APR 2016:**

Monthly Life Skill  
workshops kicks off



**FEB 2017:**

Family Learning Club  
in collaboration  
with CMY begins

# EDUCATION



## Learning Support Program

The supportive, healthy relationships formed between mentors and mentees are critical in increasing the enjoyment and eagerness toward learning, whether it's in or out of the classroom. This program is all about the English language and increasing confidence, self-esteem and curiosity in learning.

## Family Learning Club

Parental encouragement and support in their kids learning at home, combined with involvement in their school life is critical to children's education. This program establishes communication between families and schools, and parents' or guardians to engage in their child's learning in a fun and unique way, and increases parent's capacity to contribute to their children's education.

## Educational Material Aid

No kid should go to school without the right tools to succeed in their education. Over the last 12 months we've supplied 234 children with school supplies with the support of individuals, businesses and organisations, ensuring refugee & migrant children can keep up with their peers at school.

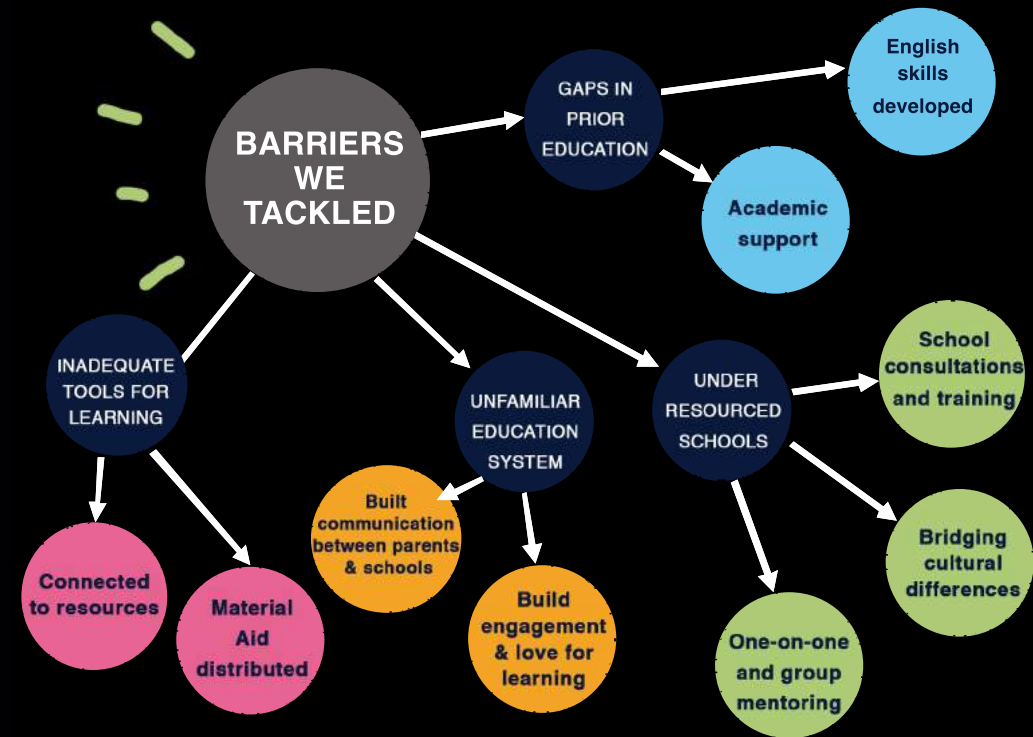


**"RMCC HAS STRONG EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE IN THIS AREA OF EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT WORK AND WE BELIEVE THEY ARE BEST PLACED TO SUPPORT THE GROWING NEED OF STUDENTS, SCHOOLS & THE COMMUNITY"**

*-KATHERINE SCIGLITANO,  
EDUCATION PROGRAM LEADER AT  
THE CENTRE FOR MULTICULTURAL  
YOUTH (CMY)*

**"I'VE NOTICED SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN THE READING AND PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS OF MY CHILD"**

*- PARENT OF A RMCC KID*



## Highlights

- ★ 74 mentors and volunteers connected with 293 mentees
- ★ 100% of parents or guardians said they had seen an improvement in their child's engagement in their learning
- ★ 234 children received educational material aid assistance
- ★ 7 partnerships and collaborations formed with schools and settlement agencies
- ★ Strong relationships with wellbeing coordinators and teachers formed, allowing RMCC to raise awareness on the needs of resettled refugee kids



The fun and engaging environment at our programs add to their success



# IDENTITY AND BELONGING

## Highlights

- ★ 26 school holiday program sessions
- ★ Brought together families from 27 different cultural backgrounds
- ★ Partnerships with the Arts Centre and National Gallery of Victoria connected mentees to the arts
- ★ Eight outings to places such as the MCG, Melbourne Zoo, Science Works and Collingwood Children's farm
- ★ Strong bonds built between families and staff, with families coming together outside of programs
- ★ Combated negative experiences of discrimination by providing positive encounters that cultivate empowerment and belonging in a new community
- ★ 36 children accessing our school holiday programs



RMCC kids at Science Works



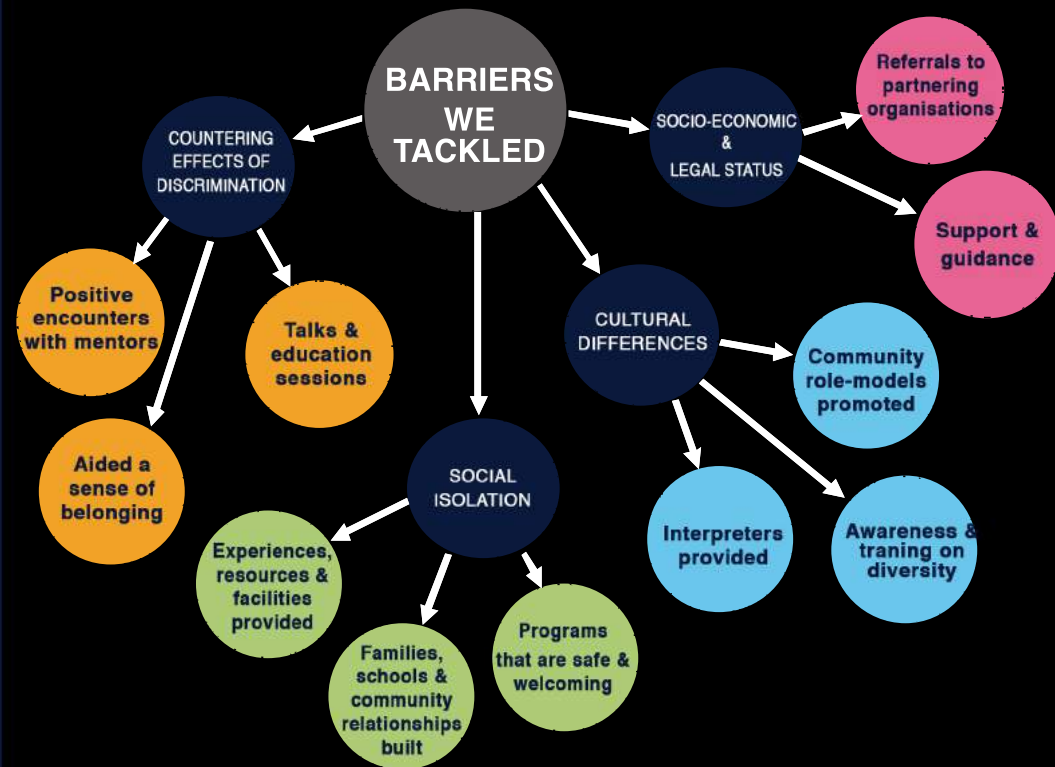
RMCC kids at the MCG



Panel discussion on identity, racism and settlement barriers

**"RMCC ENCOURAGES ALL PARENTS AND FAMILIES TO BE INVOLVED IN THEIR CHILDREN'S LEARNING AND IN THEIR PROGRAMS. THIS HAS PROVED TO HAVE HAD STRONG OUTCOMES FOR FAMILIES BY UPSKILLING PARENTS AND FURTHER BUILDING COMMUNITY AND CONNECTIONS BETWEEN SOME ISOLATED FAMILIES"**

- SAMANTHA MOLLY, WELLBEING COORDINATOR AT FOOTSCRAY NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL



## School Holiday Program

Creates positive childhood experiences and memories through interactive activities. It builds trust between peers, mentors and the community and facilitates an invaluable sense of belonging that is integral to creating a sense of identity and belonging within the community.

**"RMCC HAS BUILT UP MY CHILD'S SOCIAL SKILLS AND MADE THEM FEEL A SENSE OF BELONGING"**

- PARENT OF A RMCC KID



Enjoying the view from the stand of the MCG, the visit was a first for many

# LIFE SKILLS

## Highlights

- ★ Workshops provided with various themes such as Australian wildlife, climate, craft, gardening, nutrition, engineering, science and sports.
- ★ Workshops built life skills such as
  - Social skills
  - Leadership
  - Budgeting
  - Persistence
  - Verbal communication
  - Responsibility
  - Problem solving
  - Accountability
- ★ Access to positive development opportunities that were previously inaccessible

**"RMCC HAS HAD A HUGE EFFECT ON MY CHILD'S FUTURE SOCIALLY AND ACADEMICALLY. BY CREATING A FUN AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR MY CHILD'S LEARNING NEEDS, I AM CONFIDENT MY CHILD WILL ALWAYS HAVE A POSITIVE APPROACH TO THEIR LEARNING"**

**- PARENT OF RMCC KID**



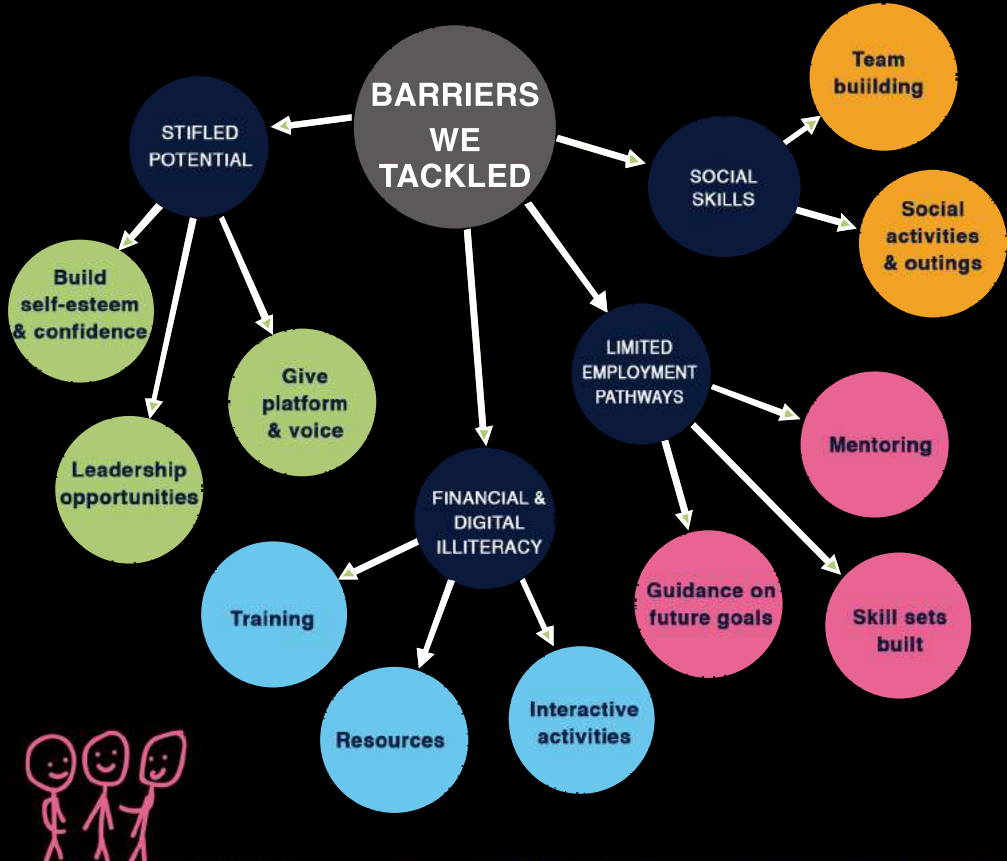
Getting creative at an arts workshop



Team bonding game at a school holiday session

## Workshops

The skills we learn and experiences we encounter as children define us as adults. Workshops challenge each child to step outside their comfort zone to ultimately build crucial life skills by building and improving skillsets through interactive, practical and thought-provoking activities. With increased confidence in their abilities, each child is empowered to shape their own future.





# MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

## Highlights

- ★ One-on-one mentoring and guidance consultations within schools for children disengaged from school or are at risk of developing mental health problems due to current personal or family circumstances
- ★ Physical education workshops on such things as basketball, soccer and mini olympics.
- ★ Nutrition workshop with a nutritionist from the Royal Children's Hospital
- ★ Fresh fruit snacks available at all our programs
- ★ 38 referrals to partnering organisations or health care specialists



"THE NEED FOR SUPPORT OF YOUNG REFUGEE & MIGRANT CHILDREN IS ONLY INCREASING AND RMCC IS A KEY CONTRIBUTOR TO ENSURING THE LONG TERM WELLBEING OF THESE CHILDREN"

- SAMANTHA MOLLY, STUDENT WELLBEING COORDINATOR AT FOOTSCRAY NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

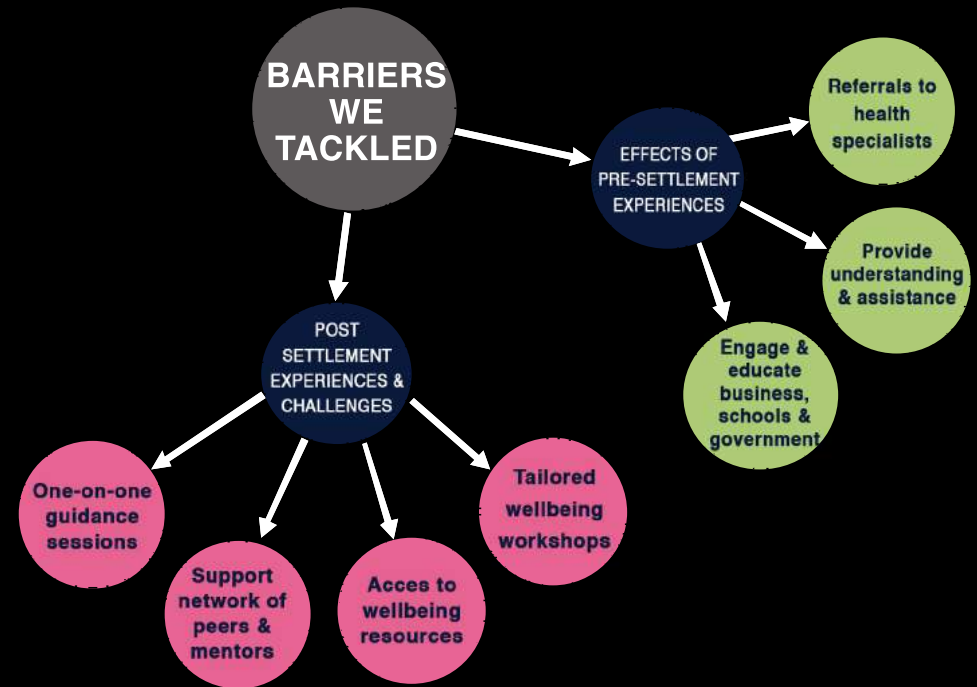


"THIS FEELS LIKE HOME"

- CHILD AT ONE OF OUR WORKSHOPS

"THE THING I VALUE MOST OF RMCC'S PROGRAMS IS THE TIME KIDS HAVE TO LEARN AND PLAY IN A FANTASTIC ENVIRONMENT WHERE THEY ARE VERY HAPPY. FOR MYSELF, I HAVE TIME TO SIT DOWN AND CHAT WITH OTHER PARENTS"

- PARENT OF RMCC KID



A soccer workshop during school holidays had the kids kicking goals

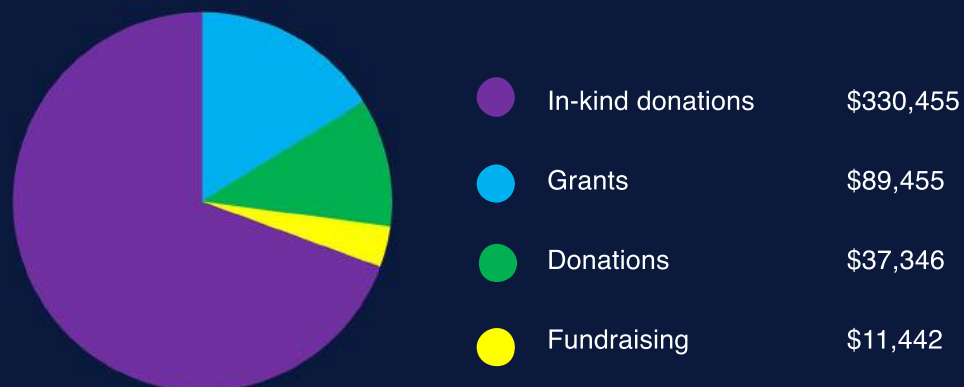


# FINANCES

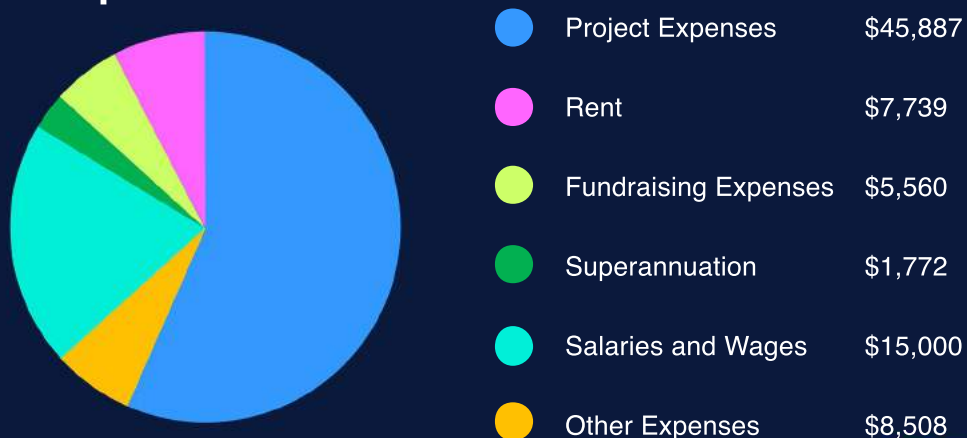


Income increased by 384% from the 2016 financial year. In addition, there was an in-kind contribution of \$330,455 by volunteers, services in-kind, and material donations. This allowed project expenditure to grow by 250%, and investment in key staff and infrastructure needed for the growth and sustainability of RMCC.

## Income



## Expenses



## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

REVENUES	2017 (\$)	2016 (\$)
Grants Received	89,455	24,400
Donations Received	37,346	2,493
Fundraising Events	11,442	8,801
Sales of Merchandise	-	115
Interest	335	313
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>138,578</b>	<b>36,123</b>

EXPENSES	2017 (\$)	2016 (\$)
Purchase of Stock	-	672
Project Expenses for RMCC	45,887	17,980
Fundraising Expenses	5,560	2,349
Salaries & Wages	15,000	4,666
Superannuation-Non-Project Expenses	1,772	420
Rent	7,739	3,504
Other Expenses	8,508	4,344
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>84,466</b>	<b>33,936</b>

CURRENT ASSETS	2017 (\$)	2016 (\$)
Cash and Cash Equivalents	80,055	25,540
Accounts Receivables	4,309	11,118
Inventories	-	559
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>84,364</b>	<b>37,258</b>

LIABILITIES	2017 (\$)	2016 (\$)
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts Payable and Other Liabilities	10,179	17,185
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>10,179</b>	<b>17,185</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>10,179</b>	<b>17,185</b>

<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>74,185</b>	<b>20,073</b>
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EQUITY	2017 (\$)	2016 (\$)
Accumulated Members Funds	74,185	20,073
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>74,185</b>	<b>20,073</b>

# RMCC BOARD



## Mark Burton (Acting Chair)

Mark Burton is a Certified Practising Accountant with over 20 years experience, providing strategic and commercial advice to businesses and not-for-profit organisations. Over the past four years, he has been involved in settlement support and services to the Sudanese community. He was drawn to RMCC for the opportunity to make a difference to kids lives.



## Carolyn Doyle (Non-Executive Director & Secretary)

Carolyn Doyle is a lawyer with over 30 years of experience providing legal advice and services to commercial business, government bodies and not-for-profit organisations. She is currently legal council at the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and believes RMCC can make a positive difference in the lives of children.



## Jordan Mavros (Non-Executive Director)

Jordan Mavros has over 30 years experience in the human services- community with professional experience as a social worker, counsellor, CEO of the Geelong Ethnic Communities Council, Chairperson of the Multicultural Ages Care Services and President and Director at United Way/Give Where You Live. He is committed to social justice, and the rights and needs of refugee and migrant children and their families.



## Jennifer Hill (Non-Executive Director)

Jennifer Hill is the Head of Communications for RedR Australia, with extensive experience across risk and crisis management, media and government relations and corporate communications. She holds over 10 years of working for corporations and NGOs, and has led humanitarian and emergency public affairs for both World Vision Australia and World Vision International.



## Bobby Allen (Executive Director)

Bobby Allen is RMCC's Co-Founder and Project Manager and has been a part of the organisation since its humble beginnings. He has a background in audio engineering and over 10 years experience working with special needs and homeless kids and youth through an array of organisations. He is passionate about RMCC's role in creating positive impacts in the lives of newly arrived children and families.



## Alice Wojcik (Executive Director)

Alice Wojcik is the CEO & Founder of RMCC. Alice has a background in mathematics and financial planning, having worked in the banking and risk sector. However, her passion lies in creating opportunities for vulnerable children, encouraging them to succeed no matter what their background or circumstances, a cause she has dedicated herself to for more than 10 years.





# WHAT'S NEXT

WE'VE FOUND A UNIQUE SOLUTION TO EMPOWERING  
REFUGEE AND MIGRANT CHILDREN & YOUTH TO  
CREATE THEIR OWN OPPORTUNITIES

OVER THE NEXT 3 YEARS VICTORIA WILL RESETTLE  
OVER 6,000 REFUGEE CHILDREN

AND

RMCC'S TARGET IS TO EMPOWER  
OVER 2,000 OF THOSE BY 2020



# OUR SUPPORTERS

THE LEGENDS THAT MAKE RMCC POSSIBLE

## TRUSTS & FOUNDATIONS

- Harold Mitchell Foundation
- Kindred Spirits Foundation
- Collier Charitable Fund
- The Jack Brockhoff Foundation
- Sisters of Charity Foundation
- Grace Gives
- The Marian & E.H Flack Trust
- Zig Inge Foundation
- The Flora and Frank Leith Charitable Trust
- Gandel Philanthropy
- Ken & Carol Klooger Family Foundation

## IN-KIND SUPPORTERS

- Collins & Co
- The National Gallery of Victoria
- Arts Centre
- Bunnings Warehouse West Footscray
- Collingwood Children's Farm
- The Piano Project
- All the LEGENDS that volunteered and individuals that donated to our material aid drives!

## PARTNERING SCHOOLS & ORGANISATIONS

- Footscray North Primary School
- Footscray West Primary
- Footscray Primary School
- Centre for Multicultural Youth
- New Hope Foundation
- Truganina South Primary School

