

ASYLUM SEEKER AND REFUGEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ASRA)

The Queensland Government has committed \$8.3 million in funding for the Asylum Seeker and Refugee Assistance (ASRA) Program from 2021-22 through to 2024-2025. Initially \$2.07 million has been provided for 2021-2022. This funding means the continuation of the ASRA Program building on the \$4.6 million that government has allocated to the ASRA Program since 2018.

The Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs asked Communitify Queensland to continue to lead the collaboration of 7 agencies to support people seeking asylum and people with a temporary protection visa residing in Queensland. The funding recognises the collaborative efforts of the humanitarian service sector, and some of the resourcing required to meet unmet needs of people seeking asylum in Queensland.

ASRA Program Focus Objectives:

- 1. Wellbeing Support**
Individual and Family support
Housing
Health and Mental Health
Legal
- 2. Capacity Building**
Employment support
Social connection via outreach hubs.
- 3. Financial Assistance**
Basic monthly payments for those without income
- 4. Development and sustainability of ASRA and contributing community supports.**

Who is eligible for ASRA funding?

People seeking asylum who reside in Queensland on a Bridging Visa, a temporary protection visa or currently have no visa.

Organisations providing services under ASRA funding:

Communitify is the lead agency managing the Program. Australian Red Cross (ARC), Refugee and Immigration Legal Service (RAILS), Qld Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma (QPASTT), Multicultural Australia, World Wellness Group (WWG), Indooroopilly Uniting Church (IUC) Hub are subcontracted to deliver specialist services in the program.

Communitify: ASRA Program Management, Housing Support

ARC: Management and distribution of emergency relief funds, Individual and Family Support

Funded by Queensland Government through the Department of
Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs



RAILS: Legal Support
Multicultural
Australia: Employment Support, ASRA Hub Coordination
QPASTT: Mental Health Support
WWG: Health Advocacy and Nurse Case Management
IUC Hub: IUC Hub and Volunteer Coordination

Support is delivered at Outreach Hubs at The Gateway Logan, Indooroopilly Uniting Church Refugee and Asylum Seeker Hub, Gatton Hub. For those who cannot attend a hub, phone or zoom appointments are also available. Telehealth appointments are available for health issues.

Model of Service Delivery:

People eligible for ASRA will be assessed by Red Cross Individual and Family Support Workers. Interpreters are used when required. All members of a family will be assessed including children. Evidence of visa, identity and financial hardship will be requested. If eligible, basic monthly payments will be deposited into a person's bank account and this will be reviewed on a 3 monthly basis.

Specialist support services will be delivered by ASRA workers at the Outreach Hubs. This includes support for; health, immigration legal matters, employment, mental health and housing. Other referrals will be made to ensure the person/family are receiving the supports needed. For people living in regional Queensland areas the Red Cross workers will connect clients to available local services if appropriate. The Outreach Hubs are also a place of welcome and social connection.

WHAT DOES EMERGENCY RELIEF COVER?

The emergency relief funds will not meet all the needs of people eligible for ASRA Program support. The money allocated to individuals/families can contribute to food, utilities, rent, phone credit and transport. We encourage people to continue to access other forms of emergency relief as much as possible to help make best use of the ASRA payments.

Referrals:

To make a referral to the ASRA Program please call **Australian Red Cross:**

HUB number: 07 3367 5665 or 0433 940 653

HUB email: qldmsphub@redcross.org.au

Address: 49 Park Road, Milton, Brisbane, QLD

To make further enquiries about the program please contact the ASRA Coordinator: Anne Hilton
anneh@communify.org.au 0416 043 093

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