



**sttars**

supporting survivors of  
torture & trauma



**Annual  
Report  
2013/14**

SRI LANKA AFGHANISTAN PERSIA  
BURMA SYRIA SUDAN THAILAND  
LIBYA RWANDA IRAN INDIA IRAQ  
PAKISTAN INDONESIA ZIMBABWE  
NEPAL NIGERIA LEBANON BHUTAN

# Chairperson's Report

Staff worked hard to manage the challenges of providing overseas services, as well as continuing to provide core services at the home base.

The past year has been one of significant change. The 2013/2014 year commenced with STTARS staff providing overseas services in torture and trauma on Manus Island and Nauru. These services had commenced earlier in the 2013 calendar year.

The Board agreed to auspice the establishment of an overseas service on a short term basis while the overseas entity became legally established. This took considerably longer than expected. The new service called Overseas Services to Survivors of Torture and Trauma (OSSTT) began autonomous operation from 31 March 2014 and STTARS ceased responsibility for the provision of these services from this date.

Staff worked hard to manage the challenges of providing overseas services which was a new experience for all concerned (staff and board members) – as well as continuing to provide core services at the home base.

We are pleased to have been able to offer support to the establishment of the overseas service overseen by then STTARS Director Bernadette McGrath. Following an independent review which was presented to the board in January this year, it was decided not to continue to operate the overseas services. Bernadette left us in April 2014 and became the inaugural Director of OSSTT. The Board acknowledges her contribution as Director of STTARS for over a decade.

We were fortunate to obtain the services of Linda Matthews as the Director on an interim basis pending the appointment of a new CEO. Linda has a long history of leadership roles in senior positions in government - all underpinned by a social justice ethos. I thank Linda for her significant contribution to STTARS. She has kindly agreed to stay with us until there has been a handover to the new CEO.

As from April this year, we have turned our attention to re-focussing on our core services. The independent review (referred to earlier) identified that it would be timely to review the systems, structures and practices that underpin the work of STTARS. Linda has commenced this work.

The provision of overseas services and need to recruit a new CEO has meant heavy demands on the time and energy of Board members – who give their time as volunteers. For example, for some of the year, a small group of Board members met weekly over a period of some months. That Board members were able and willing to do this is an indication of their commitment to STTARS, to the people to whom we provide services and staff. I thank the Board for their dedication.

During this financial year, two board members who have been loyal supporters of STTARS over a long time resigned from the Board. Kevin Liston was associated with STTARS from the very start and joined the Board following his retirement from Australia Refugee Association (ARA). David Shepherd was a Board member for more than 15 years. On behalf of the Board, I sincerely thank both for their commitment to STTARS.

An organisation is only as good as its staff. I offer my sincere thanks to staff for the passion that underpins your work with people who seek our services. I also acknowledge the difficult times that all staff were part of over this period. While many staff were not directly involved in the overseas program, our commitment to it did impact on everyone.

In closing, I want to thank my Board colleagues for their support during a challenging year; David Egege (Deputy Chair), Michael Colmagro (Treasurer), Di Gursansky (Secretary), Nilofar Najimi, Marilyn Lennon and Gido Mapundo.

**Marj Ellis**  
Chairperson

# Director's Report

STTARS is an organisation which has grown rapidly over the past three years since a significant rise in Federal Government funding in 2011.

In April 2014 I agreed to lead STTARS for an interim period while recruitment for a new CEO took place.

At the point that I commenced, STTARS had, under the leadership of previous Director Bernadette McGrath, started and managed a service for people detained on Manus Island and Nauru, as well as continuing the provision of core services.

As Director of STTARS, Bernadette had given 12 years of dedicated service to STTARS and the cause of refugees and asylum seekers. She has continued to work in this area as the first Director of the Overseas Service to Survivors of Torture and Trauma (OSSTT).

A change of leadership of STTARS is an opportune time to reflect on past achievements and plan for the future. At the Board's direction I have undertaken a number of projects and reviews which will help STTARS face future challenges with confidence. Focus areas include improvement of ICT systems and data management, counsellor's therapeutic skills, case management practices, reduction of waiting lists and ensuring work undertaken aligns with funding obligations.

STTARS is an organisation which has grown rapidly over the past three years since a significant rise in Federal Government funding in 2011. This was due to an increase in refugee intake from 13,000 to 20,000 across Australia. This funding is mainly provided by the Department of Health under Australia's Program of Assistance for Survivors of Torture

and Trauma (PASTT). We work collaboratively with other agencies across Australia which also receive funding from this program. Without funding from federal and state governments we would be unable to do the work outlined in this report and we thank our funders for their support. They include the Department of Health, Department of Immigration and Border Protection and Department of Social Services.

We also receive funding from the South Australian government through SA Health and the Department of Communities and Social Inclusion.

STTARS has continued to provide direct services to people experiencing the effects of torture and trauma occurring prior to their arrival in Australia. In early 2014 we opened an office in Mt. Gambier as a significant number of people from a refugee background had moved to the area accompanied by a noticeable increase in requests for service.

We also work with other agencies to share our experience. They include not for profit and government agencies which are also working with refugee communities, schools and community organisations. We hope that this will help with understanding the experiences of people who have fled their countries, usually as a result of war or civil conflict with human rights abuses motivated by religious, ethnic or political reasons.

Another way to share our client's stories with the broader community is through events such as the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture held on 26 June 2014 and 'A Journey of Resilience' photography project in which people described their journey from their homeland to South Australia. The project culminated in an art exhibition on 21 March 2014, which is "Nowruz" the day of the Persian New Year and also Harmony Day in Australia.

Many people are involved in the work of STTARS and I thank them for their untiring efforts in supporting some of the most vulnerable people in our community.

STTARS Board members have given a significant amount of voluntary time and support to the organisation. I thank the Board and staff for their contributions and understand how passionate they are about the work they do. I share the feeling of the many staff who have told me how privileged they feel assisting our clients.

I am optimistic about STTARS future and hope that in the following pages of this Report we have brought to life some of the work we do and explain why it is so important.

**Linda Matthews**  
Interim Director

# STTARS Board of Management 2013/2014

**Marj Ellis – Chairperson**

**David Egege – Deputy Chairperson**

**Michael Colmagro – Treasurer**

**David Shepherd – Secretary**  
(Resigned January 2014)

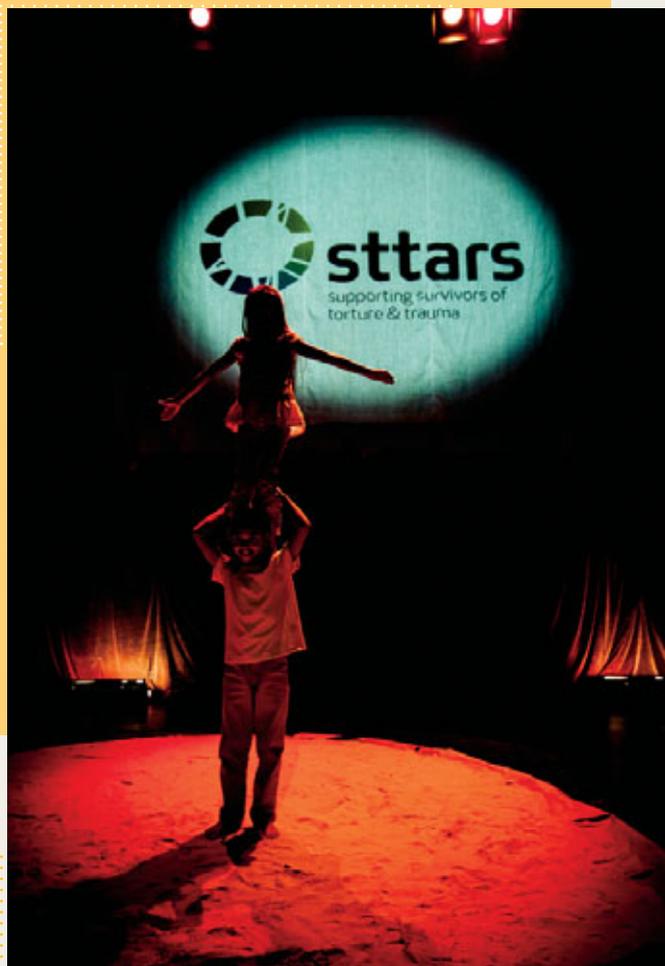
**Di Gursansky – Secretary**  
(February 2014 – present)

**Marilyn Lennon**

**Gido Mapundo**

**Nilofar Najimi**

**Kevin Liston (Resigned January 2014)**



## Thank you

**Australian Red Cross and Migrant Resource Centre** – ongoing support and collaboration to support Asylum Seekers and Refugee Communities.

**Migrant Health Service** for their continued commitment to work in partnership and their contribution to Refugee and Migrant health.

**International Health and Medical Services (IHMS) and Serco** for collaboration in support of mutual clients.

**Multicultural Youth SA** – for ongoing support for STTARS clients.

**Adrian Butterworth and Chris Venning from Economic Outlook** for their valued support with our Information Technology Services.

**South Australian Circus Centre (Cirkidz) management and facilitators** – for providing body movement classes to female clients for six months; and Arts SA who funded this project.

**Circle of Friends and Welcome to Australia** – for generosity with donations and continued assistance throughout the year.

**Joshua Hoare** – who undertook the role of Creative Director at the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture event on June 26, 2014.

**The Kurdish Youth Society, Alannah Gregory, Calin and Arwen Diamond** – for their wonderful performances at the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture event on June 26, 2014.

**Eliza Percival** – for your commitment to tell the survivor's story.

**Media Resource Centre** – editing and production of survivor stories for the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture event on June 26, 2014.

**Professor Nicholas Procter Chair: Mental Health Nursing, University of South Australia and the Refugee and Migration Research Network** for working collaboratively to plan the "Responding to the Asylum Seeker Distress Forum".

**2014 Peace Camp and the 2014 Live Camp volunteers, Peer Leaders and helpers** – for providing support to our staff and for being excellent role models to our child and youth clients.

**Enfield Baptist Church** – for providing an opportunity to undertake a six week Magic Harvest gardening program.

**Diana Bickford and volunteers at Fern Avenue Community Garden** – who facilitated and paid for the Organic Gardening Courses in October 2013 and April 2014 for our clients.

# Working with Asylum Seekers

**The STTARS Asylum Seeker Program provides services for people seeking asylum in South Australia, who are either living in immigration detention or in the community with assistance from immigration support programs.**

We provide support through a variety of activities and events including (primarily) one on one counselling to address issues of torture and trauma as well as group counselling for men, women, children and families to assist people in healing.

STTARS Asylum Seeker Program counsellors provide regular counselling sessions at Inverbrackie Alternative Place of Detention (APOD), which was established specifically as a detention centre to provide services to detainees with significant physical or mental health conditions. Having developed good relationships with the various agencies at Inverbrackie, STTARS staff provide counselling to clients who wish to discuss their painful memories. The Asylum Seeker Program also works closely with Adelaide Immigration Transition Accommodation (AITA) to enable asylum seekers who have been re-detained to address their ongoing trauma issues and provide mental health support.

STTARS is passionate about providing opportunities for learning for Asylum Seekers. This year, STTARS staff assisted in the establishment of a 'Men's Groups' English program. Up to fifteen men from many cultural groups, including Tamil, Sri Lankan, Sinhalese, Afghani and Persian, were supported by committed volunteers to learn and practice English.

Over the last 12 months, the Asylum Seeker Program facilitated a number of events which assisted in the reduction of social isolation for survivors. These activities included trips to the beach, national parks, a working produce farm, the South Australian Museum and Art Gallery, and activities with CirKidz. Both staff and survivors alike find value in these activities as they provide opportunities for learning, sharing and developing friendships.

The STTARS Asylum Seeker Program advocates for asylum seekers who receive minimal or indeed no financial support. Working in partnership with service providers in the same sector staff assist clients to obtain necessary material aid. As a means to empower asylum seekers and foster social connections within their community, STTARS staff work closely with survivors building on the development of trust and safety. We embrace opportunities to train professionals in the building of their knowledge base around issues of torture and trauma.

**1534**  
THE NUMBER OF STTARS CLIENTS  
DURING 2013-2014

“*In my country, because of the suspicion they always arrested people. So, on that basis, on suspicion, I was also arrested...*”

Male survivor from Sri Lanka

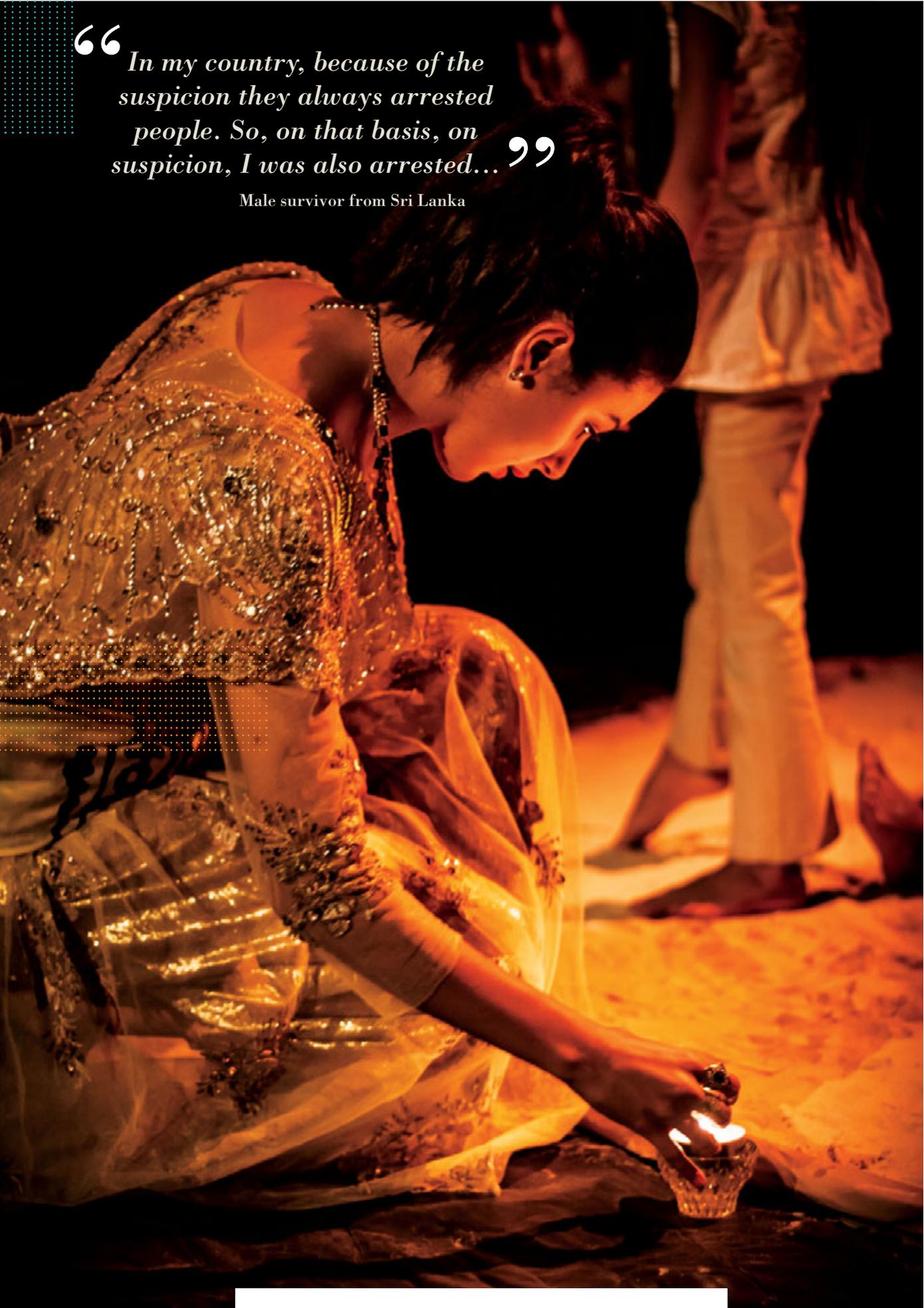


Photo courtesy of Stephen McManis

# Working with Adults

“I was tortured for many years and spent two years in prison. I watched my friends be tortured and executed. When I came to Australia I felt guilty for being here and I did not trust anyone... I got counselling and went to a support group... I never thought I could trust a stranger, but I did. Now I feel something released from my body and I feel happier and more comfortable.”

30 Year old Afghani man

Being a refugee means one has experienced multiple losses: family members, friends, safety and security, country of origin, cultural roots, a familiar environment, and hopes for the future. This can result in confusion of identity and sometimes loss of sense of self.

STTARS provides counselling to a diverse group of people from countries such as Liberia, Bhutan and Afghanistan, to address issues of torture and trauma and navigate through a myriad of different cultures and customs. This year we offered counselling to equal numbers of men and women. Often one of the first issues faced by counsellors is to assist in the removal of stigma associated with accessing counselling services especially for male clients who may not have had these experiences before.

## COLOURS OF LIFE PROJECT

Established by STTARS, “Colours of Life” uses art therapy to help participants to focus on healing from trauma using a strength-based approach. “Colours of Life” is offered to survivors of torture and trauma and is facilitated by artist Siamak Fallah. Siamak works in collaboration with counselling staff to highlight participants’ resilience and life-skills. This program also reinforces prior learnt survival techniques through the medium of art while enhancing the survivor’s sense of self and identity.

In the last twelve months, thirty five “Colours of Life” sessions were held, using art as a powerful and universal means of communication.

## “JOURNEY OF RESILIENCE” PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT

The “Journey of Resilience” photography project was created in partnership with five current STTARS clients. Assisted by photographer Alana Gregory, and supported by our counsellors, participants were encouraged to use photography to explore body awareness and spiritual practices that helped to keep survivors safe on their journey from their homeland to Adelaide. Positive connections to the survivor’s home country were identified and explored.

The project culminated with an exhibition opening at the art gallery “The Mill” on 21 March 2014, a date which fittingly is also Harmony Day and ‘Nowruz’ the day of the Persian New Year. This was a wonderful celebration of the interconnectedness of all survivors on their journey of resilience.



“*One day we lived one place and tomorrow it won't be the same. From when I was 22, we were displaced from one place to another, every day.*”

Female survivor from Rwanda

## STTARS in the South East

**By working with the community STTARS has been able to help clients through effective community engagement.**

In early 2014, STTARS established an office in the South East region opening offices in Mount Gambier, Naracoorte and outreach services in Bordertown. The aim was to provide education programs in local schools and work proactively with the local community and agencies to generate a sense of unity and respect throughout the region. STTARS has been at the forefront of education and training about the impacts of torture and trauma on the individual, family and community. STTARS provided training and education within schools in the South East and commenced interagency work involving Disability SA; Uniting Communities; Housing SA; local government services and Migrant Resource Centre.

As a consequence, a strong sense of connection among survivors living in the South East has been reported. Many survivors have said that the community has assisted in their recovery through their sense of welcome and compassion shown.

In response to the growing demand for counselling services for survivors, STTARS has worked with clients from the Middle East, Burma, Sudan, Congo and Thailand. This service is currently offered to individuals, family units and children. Through Narrative Therapy and Mindfulness Training, coping strategies for the survivors have been created to assist with dealing with painful memories of torture and/or war-related trauma.

# Working with Children and Young People

## COUNSELLING AND SUPPORT

The STTARS Child and Youth Program provides a range of therapeutic programs to address the needs of children and young people from refugee backgrounds with histories of psychological and physiological trauma. Most support is individual and family-based with complimentary group programs also available in schools and youth agencies.

Our counsellors work in collaboration with a number of other agencies to provide counselling, support and advocacy for our clients in over 20 primary and high schools as well as in our clients' homes or at STTARS office.

## THERAPEUTIC GROUPS - DRUMMING AND NARRATIVE THERAPY PROGRAMS

Over the past twelve months, 5 Drumming and Narrative Therapy based groups were conducted in a number of local primary schools, as well as at the Adelaide Secondary School of English (ASSOE). Over fifty young people learnt how to become more aware of their stress responses; how to manage their emotions; and how to work together by sharing common ground through their own stories.

## YOUTH COUNSELLORS; RESIDENCY AT ADELAIDE SECONDARY SCHOOL OF ENGLISH (ASSOE)

During 2013 and 2014, two Child and Youth Counsellors provided counselling services at ASSOE – the only public secondary school that takes new arrivals in Adelaide. Staff at ASSOE responded positively to the support provided by STTARS, noting that it improved the psychosocial support of students, increased the collaboration of staff and counsellors, and provided much needed consultancy to teaching staff.

## TRAINING TO THE SECTOR

STTARS is often requested to provide training about working with young people from a refugee background and have regular scheduled training sessions with universities, youth agencies, the Department of Education and Child Development (DECD) and the mental health sector. Training conducted over the last 12 months included sessions to sixty Master of Social Work students at Flinders University; and a session on “Students of Refugee Background – Effective Response by Schools” to approximately sixty DECD secondary school teaching and support staff. In this particular session, two young people of refugee background shared stories of school experiences that they found helpful.

## NETWORKS AND COLLABORATION

Networks and collaboration are integral to good working relationships and best outcomes for clients. Staff are actively involved in the Intensive English Liaison Centre hub meetings, which meet quarterly in each region (North, West, South and East). These consist of key leadership staff from schools, clinical staff from the Department of Education and Childhood Development (DECD) and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS). These meetings aim to support teaching staff when dealing with the needs of former refugee children and young people.



Image courtesy of Barat Ali Batoor

# Camps

# 333

THE NUMBER OF STTARS CLIENTS  
AGED 20 AND UNDER



**STTARS camp programs are run twice yearly for children and adolescents.**

In December 2013, STTARS held its annual Peace Camp at the Douglas Scrub campsite in Blewett Springs for 25 children aged between the ages of 6 and 12. The main focus of this camp is for children to engage in positive experiences in a safe and nurturing environment while enjoying and learning about the Australian culture and nature. Many of the children have lived in refugee camps and continue to endure hardships, the camp aims to build relationships so they in turn can cultivate trust and connection with others.

Over 3 days, the children worked in groups to talk about what it means to spend time together. Groups were able to share this through drama, skits and songs. Each child had an opportunity to collect “peace beads” for their bands or bracelets as a means to demonstrate peaceful and kind actions towards one another. The Beach Day Run, which had been organised by the Port Noarlunga Surf Life Saving Club to engage children in beach activities, was another highlight of the Peace Camp.

In April 2014, STTARS held its annual Live Camp in the Adelaide Hills for twenty adolescent clients to promote the theme: “Embrace Life”. Working in groups, the young people discussed their feelings around how they ‘embrace life’. Drumming, drama and games were used to enhance this sentiment. The young people enjoyed learning mountain bike riding skills with trained staff from Adventure Services at Baptist Care.

We were fortunate to have volunteer assistance from Eliza Percival, who had been employed by Film Aid while working in Sudan. Eliza documented these young people’s hopes and dreams in creative ways much to their delight.

The young people reported significant changes following the Live Camp to STTARS staff. These included positive changes in accommodation, improvement to family relationships and greater connection with others.

“*Personally I feel really safe at the moment compared to what it was like for me at home. But I’m worried about my family, because the condition is getting worse everyday...*”

Survivor from Afghanistan

# A World Without Torture

**On June 26 2014, STTARS hosted its annual event to acknowledge the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture.**

As a member of the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT), STTARS is committed to enabling torture and trauma survivors have access to holistic, health-based rehabilitation and legal representation.

'Fighting Impunity' was chosen as the focus for this year's UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. STTARS incorporated this subject matter within the structure of the evening.

The event was held at 'Tandanya', the National Aboriginal Cultural Institute. Contributors included Amnesty International Australia, award-winning filmmaker Eliza Percival whose work with FilmAid earned her a Pixel award in 2013 and South Australian Circus Company Artistic Director Joshua Hoare.

Linda Matthews, STTARS Interim Director hosted the evening and Naomi Vaughan, Community Organiser at Amnesty International Australia, presented the keynote address. Vaughan detailed Amnesty's current 'Stop Torture' campaign, which started globally in July 2014. As stated by Vaughan at the event, "Amnesty's position is that torture is never acceptable in any circumstance (and it is not effective). Governments need to prevent torture and ensure survivors are adequately supported, and that perpetrators are brought to justice".

Central to the evening were the stories of three survivors who have worked closely with STTARS counsellors and interpreters. Their stories were presented to align with the themes of 'Homeland', 'Courage', 'Strength' and 'Connection'.

Eliza Percival produced this story telling project as an audio piece in collaboration with the Media Resource Centre.

Creative Director Joshua Hoare, offered a beautiful interplay of visual performance and captivating movement to aid the story telling journey.

Hoare's choreography featured global performing acrobats Calin and Arwen Diamond joined on stage with Alana Gregory. Gregory, one of the few select people in Australia trained in the ancient Indian martial arts of 'Kalari' shared this art form with the audience.

The evening concluded with a performance by the Kurdish Youth Society and West African drummer Bortier Okoe.



Photos courtesy of Stephen McManis and Jarrad Dearman

“ So, nowadays, I feel like I am in a safe country and slowly, slowly, I am telling it to my mind, and I am coming out of that shell but I tell you, that I’m not completely out of it. ”

Male survivor from Bhutan



**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES:**

**World Without Torture**  
[worldwithouttorture.org](http://worldwithouttorture.org)

**Amnesty International – ‘Stop Torture’ campaign**  
[www.amnesty.org.au/hrs](http://www.amnesty.org.au/hrs)

**Eliza Percival**  
[www.filmmaid.org/takethetime](http://www.filmmaid.org/takethetime)

**Alana Gregory**  
[www.australiaplus.com/international/2014-06-27/in-the-inner-city-an-ancient-indian-martial-art-is-providing-inner-peace/1333484](http://www.australiaplus.com/international/2014-06-27/in-the-inner-city-an-ancient-indian-martial-art-is-providing-inner-peace/1333484)

**Calin and Arwen Diamond**  
[www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s3693811.html](http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s3693811.html)

# ‘Body Movement Reconnect’

Following a pilot program in December 2013 this women’s group ran for over eight months from January to August 2014. In collaboration with UnitingCare Wesley Bowden (UCWB) and facilitated by South Australian Circus Company, STTARS female clients from Rwanda, Afghanistan, Burma, Iran, Iraq and Bhutan accessed this fortnightly group. This ‘Body Movement Reconnect’ program was funded by Arts SA as an outreach program to improve social connection for members from the Cultural and Linguistically Diverse Community (CALD) within South Australia.

Established as a movement class for women to ‘Reconnect’ to their body, the group became a social hub for women to spend time with others who had also been through similar experiences of torture or war-related trauma.

The South Australian Circus facilitators made concerted efforts to focus on each individual participant in the group. Each person was monitored by the facilitators as to their capabilities and ability to take part in the group activities, and every session ended with a ‘Goodbye’ in their own language.

Over the course of eight months, between ten to fifteen women from Rwanda, Afghanistan, Burma, Iran, Iraq and Bhutan attended on a fortnightly basis.

#### **BENEFITS FOR THE SURVIVORS HAVE INCLUDED**

- Building confidence
- Building focus and flow with hand and eye coordination
- Sense of community
- Acknowledgement of each woman’s journey and respect for each woman in partaking in this program.

#### **OTHER OUTCOMES**

Many of the clients reflected upon the social aspect of “being with sisters” and exercising together plus sharing food. Knowing that they were in a supportive environment with women who had shared experiences, assisted with their feelings of safety.

“ *We are all women sharing experiences... from Iran, Afghanistan, and other countries...* ”



# 48

THE NUMBER OF  
FEMALE CLIENTS AT  
INVERBRACKIE



## Reflections from Participants

*This program was food for my body and spirit and it made me feel good.*

*When I go there I move my body, I know for sure it is good for me.*

*My heart is so pure and thanks God for giving me this personality, I can share, I can express from my heart; I like it; I wish all human beings be like that.*

*What has happened to me in the past... when I remember sometimes it affects me; what can I do?; I am trying to cope with the situation I am in...*

*Sometimes I don't know what to do and I start crying...after crying I feel more relaxed, crying is my meditation and crying helps me to sleep at night. When I cry with women at the program, I know they are in the same boat as me – they are lots missing family, relatives and thinking of home.*



*Sisters were there with body problems, telling stories together, laughing.*

*The program was so good; people from different cultures; different languages. I really liked it.*

*I thank God for giving us time to be together; sometimes psychological problems make our time difficult, but when we come together and sit together, exercise, share lunch...we enjoy.*

*At home my mind is so busy but here I get to know the people and have good time. And these thoughts that I have at home are not bothering me. In here I get rid of that thought.*

*I appreciate this group. They respect us very much and help us.*



# Client Statistics

## STTARS Clients Receiving Services



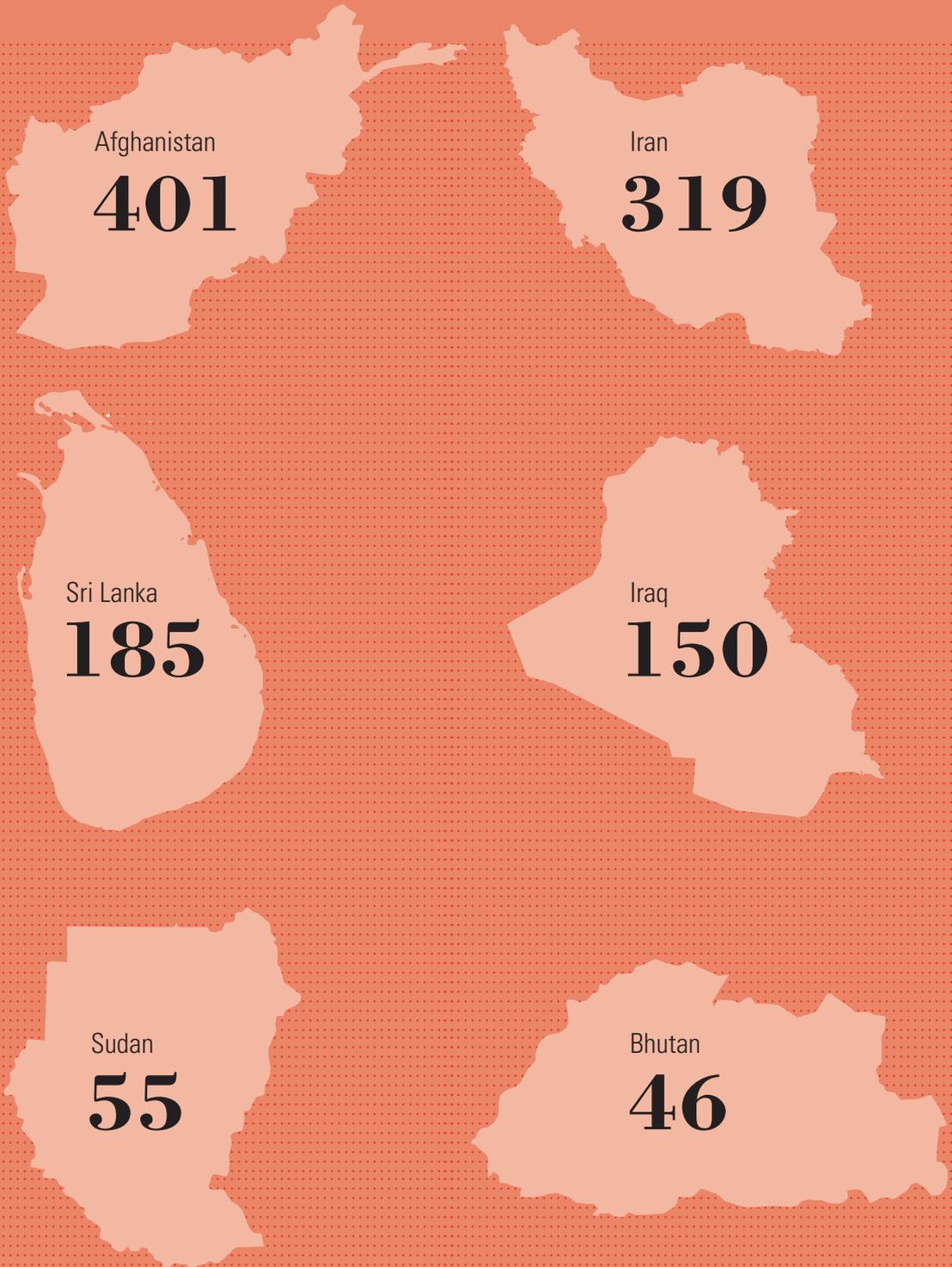
## Total New Referrals

Agency	Number
Government Organisation	15
Mental Health	24
English Language Schools	4
Allied Health	22
Education – Primary/Secondary	57
Refugee Support/Humanitarian Settlement Services	142
Internal	109
Community Non Government Organisation*	69
General Medical	159
Client - Self/Family/Friends	85
International Health and Medical Services	443

\* Includes Housing, Employment Agencies

Children Under 18 yrs **203**      Total **1129**

### Country of Origin



Total **1534**

### Age Distribution of STTARS Clients

Age Range	Female	Male	Total
0-10	30	41	71
11-20	77	185	262
21-30	94	326	420
31-40	127	260	387
41-50	122	128	250
51-60	54	65	119
61-70	10	12	22
70+	1	2	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>1019</b>	<b>1534</b>

### Visa Type

Asylum Seeker	Australian Citizen	Immigration Detention	Permanent Resident
<b>184</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>781</b>
Protection Visa 866	Protection Visa 117	Protection Visa 307	Spousal Visa 309
<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>

Total **1534**

# Inverbrackie Data 2013-14

## Inverbrackie Alternative Place of Detention

Number of Detainees Seen

# 100

Number of Families Seen

# 23

### Age Distribution of STTARS Inverbrackie Clients

Age Range	Female	Male	Total
0-10	4	3	7
11-20	4	11	15
21-30	14	13	27
31-40	18	19	37
41-50	6	4	10
51-60	2	1	3
61-70	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>100</b>



### Country of Origin – Inverbrackie





EdwardsMarshall

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT  
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SURVIVORS OF TORTURE  
AND TRAUMA ASSISTANCE AND REHABILITATION SERVICE INC**

**Report on the Financial Report**

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of the Survivors of Torture and Trauma Assistance and Rehabilitation Service Inc ("STTARS"), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2014, and the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes and the statement by members of the Board.

***The Responsibility of the Board of Management for the Financial Report***

The Board of Management of the Survivors of Torture and Trauma Assistance and Rehabilitation Service Inc are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view, and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1, is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 1985, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The board of management's responsibility also includes such internal control as the board of management determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

***Auditor's Responsibility***

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing the procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risk of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the board of management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.



EdwardsMarshall

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT  
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SURVIVORS OF TORTURE  
AND TRAUMA ASSISTANCE AND REHABILITATION SERVICE INC (CONT)**

**Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial report of the Survivors of Torture and Trauma Assistance and Rehabilitation Service Inc is prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and the *Associations Incorporation Act 1985*, including:

- i) giving a true and fair view of the Survivors of Torture and Trauma Assistance and Rehabilitation Service Inc's financial position as at 30 June 2014 and of its performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date;
- ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

We have been given all information, explanations and assistance necessary for the conduct of the audit.

**Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution**

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the Survivors of Torture and Trauma Assistance and Rehabilitation Service Inc to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 1985*, the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

*Edwards Marshall*

Edwards Marshall  
Chartered Accountants

*Brett Morkunas*

Brett Morkunas  
Partner

Adelaide  
South Australia

14 November 2014



Edwards Marshall

**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION  
UNDER SECTION 60-40 OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFITS COMMISSION ACT 2012  
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SURVIVORS OF TORTURE AND TRAUMA ASSISTANCE AND REHABILITATION  
SERVICE INC**

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2014 there has been no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

*Edwards Marshall*

Edwards Marshall  
Chartered Accountants

*Brett Morkunas*

Brett Morkunas  
Partner

Adelaide  
South Australia

14 November 2014

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## Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2014

### BOARD OF MANAGEMENT'S REPORT

Your Board of Management submit the financial report of for the financial year ended 30 June 2014.

#### Board Members

The names of board members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Marj Ellis (Chairperson)	Gido Mapundo
Michael Colmagro (Treasurer)	Nilofar Najimi
Di Gursansky (Secretary)	David Sheperd (Resigned 30 January 2014)
David Egege	Kevin Liston (Resigned 30 January 2014)
Marilyn Lennon	

Members of the Board have been in office since the start of the year unless otherwise stated. No other officer of the Association has received directly or indirectly from the association any payment or other benefit of a pecuniary value.

At no time during the year ended 30 June 2014 has any officer or related firm or body corporate, received or become entitled to receive a benefit arising from a contract between the officer, firm or body corporate and the association.

No indemnities have been given or insurance premiums paid, during or since the end of the financial year, for any person who is or has been an officer or auditor of the entity

#### Principal Activities

STTARS, Survivors of Torture and Trauma Assistance and Rehabilitation Services, has been providing services to torture and trauma survivors in SA since 1991. We have assisted thousands of people from a refugee and migrant background who have experienced torture or been traumatised as a result of persecution, violence, war or unlawful imprisonment prior to their arrival in Australia.

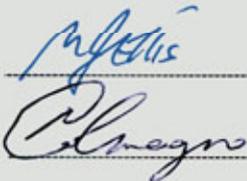
#### Significant Changes

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

#### Operating Result

The surplus for the year ending 30 June 2014 amounted to \$563,787 (2013 \$184,783)

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the members of the Board.



Dated this 14 day of November 2014

## Financial report for the year ended 30 June 2014

### STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

	Note	2014 \$	2013 \$
Revenue	2	4,967,192	3,857,800
Salaries, wages & employee costs		(3,772,773)	(2,720,512)
Audit & Accounting Fees		(12,550)	(3,200)
Client expenses		(50,671)	(40,379)
Depreciation		(18,546)	(38,849)
Insurance		(27,926)	(25,159)
Occupancy Expenses		(62,518)	102,932)
Rent		(103,441)	109,649)
Other operating expenses	2	(354,980)	632,337)
<b>Current year surplus before income tax</b>		<b>563,787</b>	<b>184,783</b>
Income tax expense		-	-
<b>Net current year surplus</b>		<b>563,787</b>	<b>184,783</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total other comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Net current year surplus attributable to members of the entity		563,787	184,783
Total comprehensive income attributable to members of the entity		563,787	184,783

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2014

	Note	2014 \$	2013 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	1,327,341	889,470
Trade and other receivables	4	349,723	488,152
Inventory		9,930	9,930
Prepayments		-	9,522
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		1,686,994	1,397,074
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	5	46,888	65,434
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		46,888	65,434
TOTAL ASSETS		1,733,882	1,462,508
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	6	243,817	312,487
Grants received in advance		50,000	-
Income received in advance		11,123	11,314
Employee provisions	7	163,411	195,415
Other Provisions	8	268,475	510,023
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		736,826	1,029,239
TOTAL LIABILITIES		736,826	1,029,239
NET ASSETS		997,056	433,269
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained Earnings		997,056	433,269
TOTAL EQUITY		997,056	433,269

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

	Retained Surplus	Total
	\$	\$
<b>Balance at 1 July 2012</b>	<u>248,486</u>	<u>248,486</u>
<b>Comprehensive income</b>		
Net surplus for the year	184,783	184,783
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income attributable to members of the entity</b>	<u>184,783</u>	<u>184,783</u>
<b>Balance at 30 June 2013</b>	<u>433,269</u>	<u>433,269</u>
<b>Balance at 1 July 2013</b>	433,269	433,269
<b>Comprehensive income</b>		
Net surplus for the year	563,787	563,787
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income attributable to members of the entity</b>	<u>563,787</u>	<u>563,787</u>
<b>Balance at 30 June 2014</b>	<u>997,056</u>	<u>997,056</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

	Note	2014 \$	2013 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Operating grants		3,141,976	2,530,418
Receipts from services		2,307,919	1,327,242
Other receipts		9,516	33,164
Interest		28,610	15,774
Payments to suppliers and employees		(4,723,479)	(3,158,626)
Net GST (paid) / received		(326,671)	(227,641)
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	12	<u>437,871</u>	<u>520,331</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Payments for Property, plant and equipment		-	(7,383)
Net cash (used in)/ provided by investing activities		<u>-</u>	<u>(7,383)</u>
Net (decrease)/increase in cash held		437,871	512,948
Cash on hand at beginning of financial year		889,470	376,522
Cash on hand at end of financial year	3	<u><u>1,327,341</u></u>	<u><u>889,470</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

## NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

**Basis of Preparation**

The financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1985. The Board has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

In order to satisfy Division 60 of the Australian Charities Not-For-Profit Commission Act 2012 the financial report has been prepared in accordance with the following Australian Accounting Standards:

- AASB 101, Presentation of Financial Statements
- AASB 107, Statement of Cash Flows
- AASB 108, Accounting Policies, Change in Accounting Estimates and Errors,
- AASB 1048, Interpretation of Standard:
- AASB 1054, Australian Additional Disclosures

The financial statements, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

**Accounting Policies**a. **Income Tax**

The association is exempt from income tax pursuant to section 50-40 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

b. **Plant and Equipment**

Plant and equipment is measured on the cost basis and are therefore carried at cost less accumulated depreciation.

**Depreciation**

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets, including buildings and capitalised lease assets, is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the asset's useful life commencing from the time the asset is available for use.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing net proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains and losses are recognised in profit or loss when the item is derecognised.

c. **Leases**

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are recognised as expenses on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

d. **Employee Provisions**

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting periods. Employee Benefits have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

The entity provides for long service leave once an employee reaches seven years' service.

e. **Other Provisions**

Other provisions are recognised by the Association when there is a significant expenditure outlay to be made within the next 12 months. Currently the Association has \$268,475 of other provisions which will be utilised in 2014/15 for a significant IT upgrade being undertaken.

f. **Cash on Hand**

Cash on hand includes cash on hand, deposits held at-call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

## NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONT)

g. **Revenue and Other Income**

Non-reciprocal grant revenue is recognised in profit or loss when the Association obtains control of the grant and it is probable that the economic benefits gained from the grant will flow to the association and the amount of the grant can be measured reliably.

If conditions are attached to the grant which must be satisfied before it is eligible to receive the contribution, the recognition of the grant as revenue will be deferred until those conditions are satisfied.

Interest revenue is recognised when it is received.

h. **Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable, to the ATO are presented as operating cash flows included in receipts from customers or payments to suppliers.

i. **Comparative Figures**

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

Where the association retrospectively applies an accounting policy, makes a retrospective restatement or reclassifies items in its financial statements, a third statement of financial position as at the beginning of the preceding period is presented in addition to the minimum comparative financial statements.

j. **Economic Dependency**

The Association receives significant funding from government grants, community grants, donations and fundraising. The extent to which the Association will be able to continue the provision of services at current levels is dependent on the continuation of appropriate levels of government funding, community grants, fundraising activities and donations and the achievement of operating surpluses and positive operating cash flow



## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

## NOTE 2: INCOME AND EXPENSES

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
Income:		
Operating Grants	2,691,361	2,758,832
Overseas Services	1,353,698	440,537
ASP Services	470,183	396,536
Australian Red Cross Services	212,019	92,705
Interest	28,610	24,837
Other Services	201,618	111,500
Other Income	9,703	32,853
Total income	<u>4,967,192</u>	<u>3,857,800</u>
Other operating expenses:		
Advertising	500	1,473
Bank charges	2,014	1,847
Bad debts expense	37,700	-
Board expenses	20,368	4,430
Computer expenses	20,488	11,603
Consultants	17,162	8,009
Doubtful debts expense	30,327	-
Diversity project	2,361	7,501
Employment supervision costs	23,832	16,133
Interpreters	93,547	96,545
Increase in provisions	-	75,000
Legal fees	30,460	1,107
Membership fees	12,397	12,764
Minor capital expenditure	18,043	84,381
Motor vehicle expenses	2,661	6,976
Outsourcing of payroll	8,030	6,637
Parking	9,064	6,193
Postage	2,930	1,555
Printing & Stationery	33,700	20,522
Publications	1,318	6,965
Repairs and Maintenance	16,523	14,095
Reversal of Provisions	(241,550)	-
Staff amenities	10,061	6,823
Staff training	33,382	68,044
Staff travel	96,098	84,766
Sundry expenses	13,598	35,659
Telephone	41,839	43,536
WHS Expenses	18,127	9,773
	<u>354,980</u>	<u>632,337</u>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

## NOTE 3: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
Operating cash account	105,161	129,802
Other Westpac accounts	1,211,043	743,083
Commonwealth Bank accounts	10,437	15,885
Petty cash	700	700
	<u>1,327,341</u>	<u>889,470</u>

## NOTE 4: TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
Trade debtors	358,251	469,882
Provision for doubtful debts	(32,487)	-
Other debtors	21,799	18,270
	<u>347,563</u>	<u>488,152</u>

## NOTE 5: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
Plant and Equipment		
At cost	318,581	318,581
Accumulated depreciation	(296,089)	(281,756)
	<u>22,492</u>	<u>36,825</u>
Furniture and Fittings:		
At cost	22,502	22,502
Accumulated depreciation	(6,413)	(4,194)
	<u>16,089</u>	<u>18,308</u>
Motor Vehicles		
At cost	13,292	13,292
Accumulated depreciation	(4,985)	(2,991)
	<u>8,307</u>	<u>10,301</u>
Total property, plant and equipment	<u>46,888</u>	<u>65,434</u>

## NOTE 6: ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND OTHER PAYABLES

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Trade and other payables	243,817	312,487
	<u>243,817</u>	<u>312,487</u>

NOTE 7: EMPLOYEE PROVISIONS	2014	2013
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Annual leave	115,525	138,981
Long service leave	47,886	56,434
	<u>163,411</u>	<u>195,415</u>

NOTE 8: OTHER PROVISIONS	2014	2013
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Provision for redundancy	36,681	180,000
Provision for IT project	231,794	231,793
Provision for research	-	23,230
Provision for OSTT	-	75,000
	<u>268,475</u>	<u>510,023</u>

Other provisions relate to amounts for significant expenditure in future periods. During 2014/15 year a significant upgrade of the Associations IT equipment will take place. As at the date of signing this report significant expenditure and upgrades have already take place.

NOTE 9: CAPITAL AND LEASING COMMITMENTS	2014	2013
	\$	\$

The Association has no finance lease commitments or capital commitments at 30 June 2014

#### Operating Lease Commitments

The Association has non-cancellable operating leases in respect of a rental of the property located at 81 Angas Street but not capitalised in the financial statements:

Payable:

- not later than 12 months	90,530	87,784
- between 12 months and 5 years	452,649	438,919
- greater than 5 years	90,530	175,568
	<u>633,709</u>	<u>702,271</u>

The lease agreement is for a ten year term with payments indexed for CPI year for the term of the lease. The lease expires on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2021.

#### NOTE 10: CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS

The Association has no contingent liabilities at 30 June 2014.

#### NOTE 11: EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

The Board is not aware of any significant events since the end of the reporting period.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

NOTE 12: CASH FLOW INFORMATION	2014	2013
	\$	\$
<b>Reconciliation of cash flow from operating activities with net current year surplus</b>		
Current year surplus after income tax	563,787	184,783
Cash flows excluded from current year surplus		
Non-cash flows in current year surplus:		
- depreciation expense	18,546	38,849
- bad debts expense	37,700	-
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
- (increase)/ decrease in trade and other receivables	70,402	280,737
- increase/ (decrease) in provision for doubtful debts	30,327	-
- Increase/ (decrease) in other provisions	(241,548)	304,999
- (increase) / decrease in prepayments	9,522	10,366
- increase/ (decrease) in trade and other payables	(68,670)	152,517
- increase/ (decrease) in employee benefits	(32,004)	60,422
- increase/(decrease) in grants in advance	50,000	(523,654)
- Increase/(decrease) in income in advance	(191)	11,312
<b>Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities</b>	<b>437,871</b>	<b>520,331</b>

## NOTE 13: ASSOCIATION DETAILS

The registered office and principle place of business of the Association is:

81 Angas Street ADELAIDE SA 5000

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The Board of Management has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose 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 of Management the financial report as set out on pages 2 to 11:

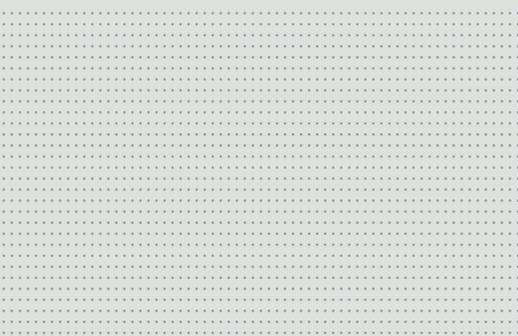
- 1. Presents fairly the financial position of Survivors of Torture Trauma Assistance and Rehabilitation Service Inc as at 30 June 2014 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
- 2. The financial report of the association is in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profit Commissions Act 2012.
- 3. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Survivors of Torture and Trauma Assistance and Rehabilitation Service Inc will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.
- 4. There are no subsidiary body corporates related to the association.
- 5. The association does not act in any capacity as Trustee.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Management and is signed for and on behalf of the Board by:

Chairperson.....

Treasurer.....

Dated this 14 day of November 2014





**sttars**

supporting survivors of  
torture & trauma

Survivors of Torture and Trauma Assistance  
and Rehabilitation Service  
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