

# STARS

Supporting Survivors  
of Torture and Trauma

## ANNUAL REPORT 2004

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## Chairperson's Report

*For STTARS the year 2004 has been one of consolidation and focus on ensuring that we provide the best possible services to our clients in a changing external environment.*

Some of the major changes we are dealing with at the present time are:

- the re-tendering of contracts by the Federal Government for the delivery of Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Services which include the delivery of short term torture and trauma counselling services;
- changes in the countries of origin of incoming refugees and fluctuations in the numbers of refugees arriving in any month;
- arrival of significant numbers of traumatised refugees from war-torn regions of Africa which places a heavy load on the counselling and therapy resources of STTARS.

The Board of Management began the year with a strategic planning workshop at which we defined key goals and directions for the coming two years. This was a valuable exercise and helped to clarify our directions for the immediate future.

One key strategic direction identified was to develop close cooperation and partnerships with other agencies particularly the Migrant Health Service. The Board has been very pleased with progress on this front and pays tribute to the Directors of both STTARS and the Adelaide Central Community Health Service for the close working relationship and efficient processes developed which have achieved major improvements in delivery of health and information services to new arrivals.

In relation to the re-tendering of contracts for Integrated Human Settlement Services (IHSS), STTARS has been in discussion with other cooperating agencies to participate in a consortium to deliver the full range of IHSS services. As a member of the consortium the primary role of STTARS would be to provide short-term trauma counselling services. These discussions are well advanced. One major change in the way services will be provided under the new contracts is that the Early Health Assessment and Information Service function has been absorbed into Case Coordination and Information Referrals which is a more generalised function and not appropriate for STTARS to undertake. Consequently we face a possible reduction in funding when the current contracts expire in September 2005. There can be no certainty of the outcome of these tenders until the new contracts are let.

One of our strategic initiatives adopted at the beginning of the year was to expand the range of support programs offered to clients and their families. In this regard STTARS has supported or sponsored a number of such programs including:

- Summer holidays program for children
- Cooking classes for young men
- Homework group
- Women's group
- Sponsorship of sporting teams
- Art therapy class

Whilst funding for STTARS work in trauma counselling and early health assessment is mainly through contracts with government agencies such as the Department of Immigration and Indigenous Affairs and the Department of Human Services, other functions such as community support projects, alternative therapies,

advocacy and training activities must be funded from other sources such as grants and donations.

Our thanks and appreciation go to all those people who have supported our fundraising efforts and to those individuals and organisations that have provided grant moneys to enable us to provide specific additional services to our clients and their families. We appreciate your confidence in STTARS and have ensured that the money is used well. My thanks also go to our wonderful fundraising committee composed of volunteers who have given unstintingly of their time, effort and money in organising fundraising events. During the year we have held a wine auction, movie nights and a very successful quiz night to raise funds for special projects. We are greatly indebted to Ann Kelly, Doris Henderson and Ann Court for their efforts on the Fundraising Committee and also to others who have given special support at particular times.

STTARS has a role to advocate for the abolition of torture and trauma as a tool or consequence of government policy world-wide. Our activities in this area have included a function to publicise and celebrate the UN International Day for the Victims of Torture throughout the world. In this activity we joined with Amnesty International and the Australian Refugee Association to mount a display in Victoria Square and give out information on the plight of refugees and the work of the UNHCR and to urge Australians to ensure the humane treatment of all people who arrive on our shores. We are grateful to our team of volunteers and staff who assisted in the preparation and staging of this event especially Rouja Vojdani, Doris Henderson, Steven Sokvari and many others.

STTARS is also moving to build our supporter network and improve communications with our supporters particularly through the internet and web-site access. However newsletters will continue to be published and will be available in paper form for those many friends who are not hooked up to the internet.

All of us can be very proud of our Director and staff. They have formed a dedicated and quality team who contribute far above what they are paid for and daily demonstrate their care of and commitment to the welfare of their clients and the work of STTARS. I must make a special mention of our volunteers who provide alternative therapies and assist in many ways to provide support and assistance to our clients. I am proud to be associated with such a fine team. Special mention must also be made of Bernadette McGrath who as Director has steered the organisation through some very difficult times and situations. In particular, her work in team building within STTARS, in ensuring that the staff have a suitable environment in which to work, in building partnerships and working to improve cooperation and coordination with other agencies, in preparation work for the IHSS tender, and in contributions to the National Forum of Australian Services for Survivors of Torture and Trauma have been critical to fulfilling our mission.



*David Shepherd  
Chairperson,  
Board of Management*

The Board of Management has also worked hard to provide support and direction for the Director and staff of STTARS to deliver excellence in care and services for our clients. I would like to thank the Board for their support and constructive efforts to discharge the mission of STTARS. Particular thanks go to Ann Court who is our secretary and a member of the Fundraising Committee. Ann has been a loyal and constant supporter of STTARS projects and fundraising activities. I would like to make special mention also of Alan Lucas who quietly and efficiently manages our finances. Indeed, I am most grateful to all Board members for their advice, support and help during the year.

The coming year will present new challenges to STTARS as it offers support and assistance to arriving refugees in a changing environment. With our fine team I am confident that, in cooperation with other agencies, we will negotiate the difficulties that face us and continue to deliver excellent services.



**David Shepherd**  
Chairperson

## Director's Report

*Life at STTARS gets very, very busy and this year has been no exception. Days and weeks of what can seem like endless report writing and meetings and telephone calls and an in-tray that never seems to empty. And then there are these moments of delight.*

A wonderful snapshot of Deena and her grandson, happily reunited against all odds and in spite of searing losses.

Aziz, deeply depressed and increasingly hopeless, finally receiving his permanent protection visa and rushing straight to STTARS to show us. We're all so delighted for him that we forget protocol and give him several big hugs.

Xuan returning to Vietnam to see his mother and sister for the first time since he'd fled 20 years earlier.

The happy/sad tears of Mejrema as she leaves us to return to Srebrenica to visit the grave of her son. All this makes me reflect on why I love working here so much.

The beauty of community organisations like STTARS is our closeness to the ground. We are independent with no political or religious affiliations. This is very important to our clients given the circumstances that often lead to them becoming refugees. We're small and personal. Clients know all the staff and we know them. Their faces and names and the names of their children are familiar to us. And because it's so personal, because we're familiar with them and their problems they feel comfortable coming here. They won't hesitate to stop the Director in the corridor to tell me about a problem they're having. And chances are, the Director will stop and do something about it right there and then.

Because we're small we are more able than larger organisations to respond quickly to new problems, as they arise. Because we're small necessity forces us to maintain very high levels of efficiency, accountability and sound financial management. We can't afford to make mistakes because we can't accommodate or absorb them the way larger organisations can. Because we're small partnerships are essential to us and we work hard at them. Because we're small staff feel supported and part of a team.

Because we're small we're able to be flexible and innovative, often setting the benchmark in best practice. Because we're small we are able to maintain a dedicated focus on meeting the needs of survivors of torture and trauma. There is no danger that the needs of survivors of torture and trauma will be subsumed to other organisational priorities, - simply because they are our priority.

There are many challenges for us in the new year ahead as we respond to changes to funding arrangements and increased numbers of new arrivals, many presenting with quite different kinds of issues to those of earlier arrivals. In facing these challenges STTARS is fortunate to be part of a network of services working in partnership, each contributing something unique, each providing excellent support to those who have come to Australia as refugees.

We are also very fortunate to have a highly skilled and dedicated staff team, many hard working and committed volunteers and an exceptionally supportive Board of Management. My heartfelt thanks go to all.



**B McGrath, Director**



**B McGrath**  
Director

## *Specialist Torture and Trauma Counselling*

*It has been a highly demanding, challenging, at times frustrating but ever rewarding year in which the demand for counselling far outstripped our limited resources.*

A year which saw our traditional client base expand to include much greater numbers of clients on temporary visas, experiencing high levels of distress and feelings of hopelessness and helplessness, as they go through the often difficult and at times traumatising process of applying for permanent visas.

Historically the specialist counselling programme at STTARS has provided services mainly to clients with permanent protection visas. The notable exception to this was during 1998 when the Safe Haven for Kosovars was established and for a few months we worked with people on temporary visas. The past year has seen a significant increase in the demand for services from people released from detention on Temporary Protection Visas (TPVs) and Bridging Visas. In addition, due to the excellent work undertaken by the EHAI team in identifying clients who need ongoing support and counselling for torture and trauma issues, we have had higher numbers of referrals into the specialist counselling programme.

This has put a huge strain on our resources and unfortunately one of the consequences has been much longer waiting times for counselling. The counselling team has responded to the increased number of referrals in a variety of ways, including streamlining intake and assessment procedures, working closely with the Migrant Health Service counselling team to ensure appropriate and timely provision of services and recruiting a number of highly experienced and committed counsellors to work on a sessional basis. In addition, we have expanded our groupwork and rural outreach programmes for TPVs and Bridging Visa Holders.

### **The Team**

The permanent staff in the specialist counselling team consists of Sandra as Co-ordinator and Senior Counsellor, Steve as Senior Counsellor and Robyn as Intake/Assessment Worker. Kate Byford a social work student from Flinders University joined the team earlier this year on placement. To work effectively with torture and trauma clients staff need to have not only a solid professional background and experience in counselling, they need to have an openness to learning about different cultures, endless patience, an ability to work with interpreters, a commitment to human rights and a strong belief in social justice. Fortunately, STTARS has always attracted permanent and sessional staff who have these qualities in abundance.

For the past year we have been fortunate to have two highly skilled practitioners offering their services to STTARS clients. Dr. Michael Lee who previously worked with STTARS has now returned and we greatly value his skills and training as a Medical Practitioner and Family Therapist. Similarly, Dr. Rick Curnow, a highly regarded Psychiatrist and Psychotherapist joined us and has become a valuable member of our team. Roxanne Hewitt, a Child Psychologist and long standing and much appreciated supporter of STTARS continues to offer her skills on a voluntary basis to child trauma victims. During the year Dr. Marie O'Neil also volunteered her time and expertise in assisting clients.

### **Services**

Whilst there are some similarities in providing counselling for torture and trauma survivors with permanent visas and those with temporary visas there are also significant differences. One of the main differences is that temporary visa holders do not have a sense of safety in their lives, they are living in limbo, often separated from family. Their needs are often urgent and have an intensity which requires a more immediate response. As an agency we have responded by offering a place of support and welcome. We have provided counselling, advocacy and assistance as they go through the bewildering and distressing process of applying for permanent visas.

One of the most successful activities in working with TPVs has been the provision of a weekly 'drop-in' group organised by STTARS with support from the Migrant Health Service. This has exceeded all expectations in terms of providing a safe and supportive environment for the Afghani clients who attend. This was demonstrated when two of the attendees who gained casual employment some distance from Adelaide, drove for 2 hours both ways so they could attend the group as they did not want to miss anything! Another participant who has been close to suicide on a number of occasions and who is extremely depressed informed us that one particularly bad day, he was able to "hang on" as he knew the group would be held that night and that he would feel supported at the group.

Outreach to rural areas which have high concentrations of TPVs has been initiated firstly to Murray Bridge and in recent months to the Riverland. Individual sessions have been held with clients as well as networking and training with local service providers who have shown interest in supporting the TPVs living locally.

In recent months the Refugee Women's Group, which has been an institution for many years, has transformed into a monthly craft group. We are still fortunate to have the services of Nicola Wright, a skilled and patient craft teacher who volunteers her time and expertise. This group has been instrumental in reducing isolation, fostering social networks and encouraging women to become mobile and active in the community.

STTARS in partnership with Anglicare Loss & Grief Centre and a number of dedicated volunteers conducted a highly successful school holiday programme over the summer holidays. The children enjoyed a diverse range of activities from sculpting to playing musical instruments to visiting the zoo. For children who have spent many years in refugee camps deprived of even basic educational and recreational activities, the programme provided them with the opportunity to have fun, play games and learn different ways to express themselves in a safe and supportive environment.

Establishing close working relationships with other agencies and exploring opportunities to work in partnership for the benefit of clients has been a feature of our work this year and something we are committed to developing further in the future.

**Sandra Gault**  
**Senior Counsellor**

## **War and Loss**

*Beyond the sleepless night  
 After coffee and tobacco  
 Morning finds him walking again  
 Perhaps this is the way to conquer pain  
 The well worn path beneath tired feet  
 Thoughts swirl around him like whispers  
 Something vulnerable passes  
 Then falls away like footsteps like leaves  
 There is no way back  
 Only the relentless march of days and nights  
 Filled with precious broken things*

*He remembers a home  
 A smouldering ruin collapsed on some ancient hill  
 Stones shaped with his weary toil  
 And the sweat of missing men  
 He is caught between the old and the unborn  
 For the future is yet to blossom  
 Seeds have not found rain here  
 The past is all around him  
 Difficult to shrug  
 Like a heavy unwanted thing*

*He is nowhere now  
 Moored off the coast of other distant lives  
 The seas enigmatic silence  
 The emptiness  
 Spills into each unguarded moment  
 Pain is so contemptuous of desire  
 Invading the calm surface of things  
 Shattering the thin safe façade.  
 Tearing at the delicately woven fabrics of once  
 shared lives*



*Senior T&T Counsellor  
 Steve Thompson*

*Yet love remains  
 Like the morning sunlight  
 And the shadow of the dead  
 Beneath a blanket of dark earth  
 In some distant remembered land.*

*The dead are not completely left behind  
 And words fail endlessly to eclipse their loss  
 He thinks he might never belong here.  
 Still sometimes in the warm October air  
 When sun has torn free of cold winter skies  
 It seems possible  
 To shed these clouds  
 That block other ways of seeing things*

**Steve Thompson  
 Senior Counsellor**



Senior T&T Counsellor Sandra Gault (seated) with Student Social Worker Kate Byford



EHAIS Team Workers Farah Sobhanian (left) and Anne Lovell

## ***EHAIS Programme***

*The Early Health Assessment and Intervention Programme has continued very successfully over the past twelve months. The number of humanitarian entrants into South Australia has risen recently and, as STTARS sees all humanitarian new arrivals, we have increased the size of the EHAIS team.*

We welcomed two new staff members in recent months, Ayen Kuol and Rita Kamara from Sudan and Sierra Leone respectively. Their language skills, cultural insights and community connections are proving invaluable in our work with the client groups currently arriving under the IHSS programme.

The majority of new arrivals, both proposed and non-proposed clients, are from African countries including Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Congo, Burundi, Rwanda, Liberia and Sierra Leone. There are still, however, a significant number of arrivals from the Middle East, including Iran, Iraq, and Afghanistan. A small number of new arrivals are from the Former Yugoslavia, as it appears that this programme is almost closed. The multicultural and multi-skilled EHAIS workers cover a majority of the languages represented by these communities; for other languages, we work with our panel of community interpreters.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the interpreters for their dedication and commitment to the work they do for STTARS.

STTARS have been working in close partnership with the Migrant Health Service, the Parks Community Health Centre and the Northern Metropolitan Health Service over the past year. The aim of these partnerships has been to improve referral processes, to reduce duplication and gaps in services and to strengthen the relationships between the agencies. This collaboration, which has included the co-location of the EHAIS Coordinator at the Migrant Health Service for a number of hours per week as a pilot project, has been extremely productive and successful. We hope that the relationship between STTARS and these agencies will continue to flourish and grow to include other community health services.

The EHAIS programme at STTARS has developed and matured since its beginnings in the year 2000. It is one of the most successful EHAIS programmes in the country. The coming year will bring considerable changes to the way health information and referral services are delivered to new arrival refugees; the programme developed by STTARS over the last four years has built a firm foundation for future programmes to draw from.

The EHAIS workers, including our administration colleagues, are hard working, dedicated and very committed. The work is often complex and demanding, requiring a high degree of professionalism which the team consistently demonstrate. Thanks to Ayen, Farah, Rita, Sarah, Slavica, Alica and Maja for all their hard work.

***Anne Lovell***  
***EHAIS Co-ordinator***

## ***Natural Therapies Programme***

*This year we had high numbers of clients with chronic musculo-skeletal health problems from Former Yugoslavia being re-referred to STTARS for massage. Most had already received extensive courses of treatment both at STTARS and from other health providers.*

We needed to ensure that new arrivals with more acute and pressing needs were offered reasonably prompt appointments. To that end, we have been involved in planning and training with The UniSA School of Health Sciences – (Physiotherapy), including providing placements for some students. We referred some clients to the UniSA student clinics where, thanks to a pilot project, there was some money made available from Adelaide Central Community Health Service to provide interpreting. We also refer many of our female clients to the Women's Swimming Programme at the Thebarton Aquatic Centre. Our Reflexology programme was also aimed towards the re-presenting clients.

In addition we have introduced a weekly chair-based exercise and relaxation group run by our longest serving volunteer massage therapist Merlyn Thompson.

On Thursday evenings we provided massage and other therapies to the highly distressed and often at risk participants in the TPV group. Some clients book regular appointments early in the evening and others take advantage of later session times kept vacant for a drop-in style service. This has worked well with many clients benefiting from these sessions.

Most of the natural therapies work is done by volunteers. Some of our volunteer staff are very experienced massage therapists, others are students working the required clinical hours for their professional qualifications, or doing a Community Placement (some have been involved with STTARS as long as the longest serving paid staff). STTARS thanks all our volunteer therapists for their very generous assistance to refugees.

***Chris Rose***  
***Programme Coordinator***

## Introducing the new EHAIS team members

### Rita Kamara

*My name is Rita Magdalene Kamara. My country of Birth is Sierra Leone, West Africa.*

I travelled to West Germany in 1976 on a German scholarship and where I studied German language and Medical Science graduating in 1981.

I returned home to Sierra Leone in 1986.

I was asked by the Catholic Mission in Freetown (capital city of Sierra Leone) to manage the St Anthony's Clinic.

In 1997, I took up further Studies at the University of Medicine and Allied Science, Sierra Leone. I acquired a Post Graduate Certificate in Tropical Community Medicine and Health and a Diploma in International Community Medicine and Health.

In 1997 I opened my clinics, The Child Jesus Clinics for the poor and underprivileged, located in the East and the centre of Freetown. These clinics served the refugees from Liberia and the displaced people from Sierra Leone very well till 1999 when the rebels captured Freetown.

My family and I took refuge in the neighbouring country Guinea, where I was granted permission to operate the Child Jesus Clinic in Guinea, which served the refugees in Guinea till I left for Australia in August 2001.

I worked as African Community Settlement Worker from November 2002 to June 2004.

Now I work for EHAIS and I am studying Bachelor of Health Science.

**Rita Kamara**  
**EHAIS Team**



*New EHAIS Team Worker Sara Purcell (left) with Slavica Dedijer*



*EHAIS Team Workers Rita Kamara (top) and Ayen Kuol*

### Ayen Kuol

*My name is Ayen Kuol and I was born in Sudan. I left Sudan in 1985 as a result of civil war. I am working as a case worker at STTARS in the Early Health Intervention Team and I am studying social work at University of South Australia.*

I came to Australia in 2001, with my four children under the government's humanitarian program. Coming to Australia was the last destination of my long journey, after moving around between many countries in Africa, looking for safety and security. Having been homeless for so many years, finally I found myself a home. I and my children became Australian citizens in June 2003. However, Sudan is my country, and its memories will always be in my mind.

My background experiences of the war, and the experiences I have gained from the work I am currently doing, are the key strength that helps me deal with my daily tasks.

Having been a refugee myself, helps me find answers to some personalities, those I come across without prejudging their values.

I begin to realise how strong African women have been and the level of strength that they still have toward standing firm for survival. Sudanese women have proved that they can survive, where ever it may be, and whatever it may take. Sudanese women will always survive.

Settlement is an issue that can be very challenging to everyone. It doesn't matter what nationality or background you may be. Having to start a new life in a strange country, from my own experiences, you have to have guts, otherwise the fear from everything that you come across during the times of settlement is equivalent to the fear of war zones.

Helping others is one of the things that make me feel good. I feel good to use my personality and help those who are in need of help. Caring is how I reward my feeling of wanting to help. I used to feel my heart was twisted until I was supported by STTARS to be able to support the young people in my community, in particular the young men. Cooking classes are beneficial for the African young people.

**Ayen Kuol**  
**EHAIS Team**

### Sarah Purcell

*My name is Sarah Purcell and I joined the EHAIS team at STTARS at the start of July this year. I completed a postgraduate degree in Social Work in 2003 while working part time in the IHSS new arrivals program.*

When I started my degree at Flinders University Sandra Gault came to our lecture to give a talk on STTARS and I remember thinking while she was talking that this is the place I want to work at.... so here I am and couldn't be happier to be here. The opportunity to work in the EHAIS team at STTARS was too good to refuse and I have not looked back since starting here.

**Sarah Purcell**  
**EHAIS Team**

## Client Statistics

In 2003/2004 STTARS provided assistance to a total of 1112 Clients with a 9% increase in the number of new referrals.

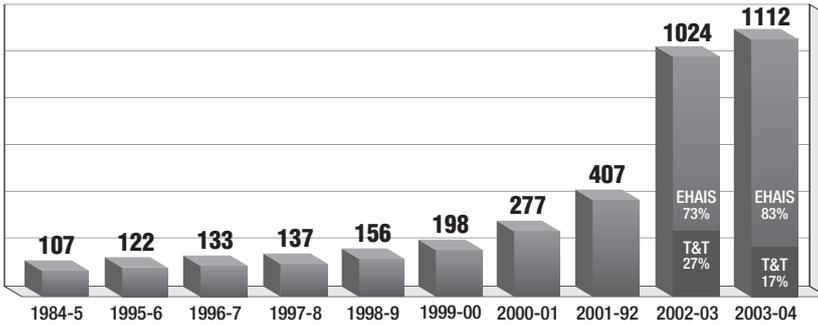
In 2003/04, 922 of our new clients received EHAIS assistance and 190 received Specialist T&T counselling.

In 2003/04 54% of our clients came from Africa. 26% came from the Middle East, 13% came from Former Yugoslavia and 3% came from India and Pakistan

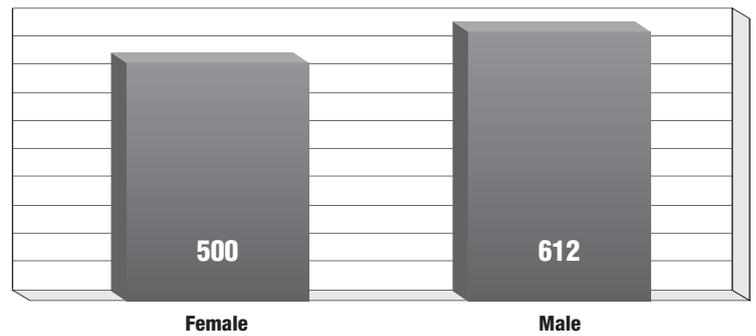


STTARS Data and Resource Officer Steve Sokvari

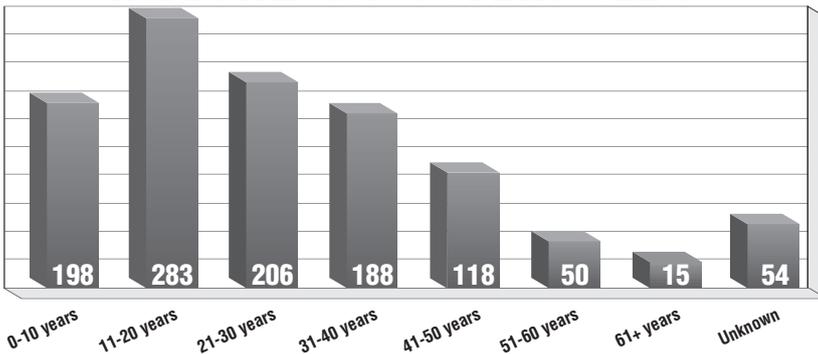
### NEW REFERRALS



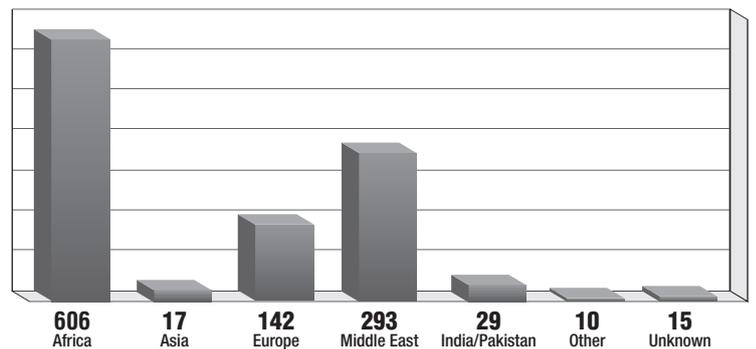
### GENDER



### AGE DISTRIBUTION OF STTARS CLIENTS



### NUMBER OF CLIENTS BY REGION



## Thanks

### Funding Bodies

The Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing  
 The Commonwealth Department of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs  
 The SA Department of Health  
 (formerly Department of Human Services)

### Organisations and Agencies

ABC International  
 Adelaide Central Community Health Service  
 Adelaide City Council  
 Adelaide Secondary School of English  
 Adelaide Western Div of General Practice  
 Amnesty International  
 Anglicare  
 ARA Jobs Pty Ltd  
 Australian Red Cross  
 Australian Refugee Association Inc.  
 BEECOS (Web development)  
 Community Benefit SA  
 Economic Outlook  
 English Language Service  
 FASSTT  
 Felicity Electricity  
 Mr John French  
 Katron Creative  
 Magdalene Centre  
 LM Training  
 Lutheran Community Care  
 Media Resource Centre  
 Mercury Cinema  
 Migrant Health Service  
 Migrant Resource Centre

Northern Metrop. Community Health Service  
 Nunkuwarrin Yunti of SA  
 Refugee Advocacy Service (SA)  
 Refugee Health Network  
 Silverline Security  
 South Australian Housing Trust  
 The Parks Community Centre  
 TIS (Translating and Interpreting Service)  
 Bob Wood Home & Office Maintenance  
 Alain Valodze

### And Special Thanks:

- *To our interpreters without whom communication would be near impossible and whose skills, empathy and cheerful co-operation make our work so much easier*
- *To our Natural Therapies Volunteers who have so willingly and with such dedication given their time and skills to help STTARS clients. They are invaluable.*
- *Doris Henderson, Ann and Kym Kelly and Rouha Vojdani for the work on the fundraising committee, Friends of STTARS and the Vigil Day*
- *Adrian and David Butterworth for IT support. They have the generosity and patience of saints.*



*Temporary Visa Holders at their regular Thursday Evening meetings with counsellors Sandra Gault and Robyn Smythe*



*Education and Training Coordinator Renae Willsmore with friend Alice at the Refugee Week opening*

## STTARS Board Members 2003/04

### Mr David Shepherd ~ Chair

Mr Shepherd has a keen interest in other cultures and is widely travelled, including over two years in Malaysia as an Australian Volunteer Abroad and one year in Venezuela where he worked as a telecommunications Technical Expert under a United Nations development programme.

A founding member of the Indo-China Refugee Association, he and his wife Martha welcomed and hosted many families from Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia during the nineteen seventies and eighties.

He is retired after a career as an engineer and manager in the telecommunications industry. As a general manager with a major telecommunications company he was responsible for the achievement of business and financial goals, staff management, revenue generation and profitability for a business unit of the company.

### Dr Christine Stevens ~ Deputy Chair

Dr Stevens was born in England and came to Australia as a child. A social worker and geographer, she has worked primarily in the fields of health and housing. She currently works as a Research Fellow at the National Institute of Labour Studies at Flinders University. She has undertaken research on refugee resettlement and has published widely in international and national journals on immigration issues. Dr Stevens worked with the Cambodian community in South Australia for many years and is a member of the Board of the Australian Refugee Association.

### Alan Lucas ~ Treasurer

Mr Alan Lucas migrated to Australia from England with his family in 1951. He studied economics at Adelaide University and is a qualified accountant (CPA). He worked for Mobil Oil, Amscol, the Holland Group, and had his own Accounting practice for many years.

### Ann Court ~ Secretary

An experienced ESL teacher at Burton Reception to Year 7 School, Mrs Court has worked primarily with Cambodian students and their families in a teaching capacity and as community liaison person helping with settlement issues. She has been active in multicultural education concerns for many years.

### Mr Dilip Chirmuley

Dilip came to Australia in 1966 from Mumbai, India to undertake post-grad studies in Sanitary Engineering.

He has taught at Flinders and Adelaide Universities before retiring from teaching at the end of 2000. From 1985-1988 he was a member of the SA Ethnic Affairs Commission. He is a past President of the Indian Australian Association of SA and The Hindu Society of SA. Currently he is First Vice President of the Multicultural Communities Council of SA, Treasurer, Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia and Board Member, Australian Partnership of Ethnic and Religious Organisations. In 2003 Dilip was awarded the Centenary Medal by the Australian Government for "advancement of multiculturalism an improved services for migrants".



Board Members Ann Court, Rev. Bruce Stocks and David Shepherd with Staff Board Representative Farah Sobhanian

### Marjorie Schulze OAM

A consultant specialising in community and organisational development, Marjorie has post-graduate qualifications in public policy and management and has completed the Australian Institute of Company Directors Course. She has a range of experience in the governance of community-based organisations having served in Local Government and as a member of several not-for-profit Boards of Management. She is currently a Director of the ACH group, a major aged care provider and is a member of the SA Smith Family Development Committee.

### Rev Bruce Stocks

Bruce Stocks is the Parish Priest at Mile End in the Anglican Church. Bruce has a background in community work, therapy and spirituality. For a little over 20 years, Bruce has worked in a range of community organisations with youth, people with dementia, individual couples and families in counselling, indigenous people and refugees. Bruce has qualifications in Theology, Social Work and Family Therapy, and has been a member of the Family Therapy Association of SA for 14 years. Bruce has worked with four Anglican Parishes, Adelaide Central Mission, Relationship Australia, and The Alzheimer's Association of SA. Bruce is interested in the healing process of disposed people, and in encouraging staff and volunteers in this challenging work.

### Ms Andrea Tschner

Andrea migrated to Australia from Germany in 1997 to unite with her Australian partner. As an educator and social worker having obtained post-graduate qualifications in both countries, Andrea has worked with organisations specialising in services for children and young people, both in Germany and South Australia. She is currently employed with the Department of Families and Communities / Children, Youth & Family Services coordinating services for unaccompanied refugee minors and undertaking project work regarding African refugees.

## *STTARS Staff and Volunteers 2003/04*

### **Director**

Ms B McGrath

### **Specialist Counselling Team**

Ms Robyn Smythe  
(Intake and Assessment)

Ms Sandra Gault

Mr Steve Thompson

### **Early Health Assessment and Intervention Team**

Ms Anne Lovell (EHAIS Coordinator)

Ms Slavica Dedijer

Ms Rita Kamara (from August 2004)

Ms Ayen Kuol (from January 2003)

Ms Sarah Purcell (from July 2004)

Ms Bisan Shahin (until July 2004)

Ms Farah Sobhanian

### **Sessional Counsellors**

Dr Rick Curnow

Mr Allen Fugler

Ms Roxanne Hewitt

Dr Michael Lee

### **Natural Therapies and Volunteers Coordinator**

Ms Chris Rose

### **Education and Education Coordinator**

Ms Lin Monash (until August 2004)

Ms Renae Willsmore (from August 2004)

### **Administration**

Ms Alica Varesanovic

Ms Maja Dedijer (from September 2004)

Ms Anat Lavy (until February 2004)

Ms Sallyanne Scholefield

Mr Steve Sokvari

### **Natural Therapies Volunteers**

Ms Margaret Alfred

Ms Katie Louise Campbell-Colquhoun

Ms Estelle Dagnall

Mr Keith Evans

Mr Tony Fonseca

Ms Anne Haack

Ms Veronica Martin

Ms Marjon Marton

Mr Peter Marton

Ms Lesley Morgan

Mr Lawrence Muzzatti

Ms Jerusha Nicholls

Ms Carly Palmer

Ms Phillipa Rowland

Mr Ray Shepherd

Ms Billy-Joe Starr

Ms Pam Taylor

Ms Meryl Thompson

Ms Athina Vlahos

Ms Nancyrita Waye

### **General Volunteers**

Mr Jafar Ali

Mr Roger Arulanandam

Mr Mahommed Baqir

Ms Sandy Boyce

Ms Brenda Bradley

Ms Shayne Brennan

Ms Marina Canepa

Ms Haroula Chronopolous

Ms Peta Connor

Ms Mireille Davidson

Ms Jill Day

Ms Sarah Dumuid

Ms Sue Dutton

Ms Minyu Fang

Ms Zeshi Fisher

Ms Sandy Fogarty

Ms Vanessa Forbes

Ms Camille Goodman

Mr Peter Hanna

Mr John Henderson

Ms Helen Hobbs

Ms Amy Janowski

Ms Jean John

Mr Tony Leschen

Ms Nancy McLean

Ms Beth Mylius

Mr Ray Mylius

Ms Jenny Norris-Green

Ms Sabina Omanovic

Ms Heather Pearce

Mr Khaled Pededar

Mr Trudy Seidel

Mr Charles Shackelford

Ms Clare Shearman

Ms Wendy Shulver

Ms Mitra Sobhanian

Ms Riko Sugiyama

Ms Sophia Tassio

Mr Atte Warrke

Ms Nichola Wright

Ms Charmaigne Young



*Steve Sokvari with the STTARS Van which was designed and painted by Adelaide artist Felicity Electricity*



*B. McGrath, Director; Sallyanne Scholefield, Financial Officer and Alica Varesanovic, Administration Manager*

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS  
YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2004**



**Scope of the Audit**

We have audited the financial report, being a special purpose financial report, comprising the Income & Expenditure Statement, Balance Sheet, Notes to the Financial Report, and Statement and Report by the Board, of the Survivors of Torture & Trauma Assistance & Rehabilitation Service Inc. (STTARS) for the year ended 30th June 2004.

The Board is responsible for the financial report and has determined that the accounting policies used and described in Note 1 to the Accounts are appropriate to meet the requirements of the Association Incorporation Act and the needs of members

We have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate to the needs of members. Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

**Audit Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial report presents a true and fair view of the financial position and results of operations of STTARS for the year.

Dated this 13th day of October 2004

**PETER HALL  
PETER HALL & CO  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
Registered Company Auditor**

**Statement and Report by the Board**

The Board has determined that the Survivors of Torture & Trauma Assistance & Rehabilitation Service Inc. (STTARS) is not a reporting entity.

The Board have determined 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 members of the Board the financial report comprising the Income and Expenditure Statements, Balance Sheet and Notes to and forming part of the financial report:

- (a) Present fairly the financial position of STTARS as at 30 June 2004 and its performance for the year ended on that date;
- (b) At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that STTARS will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

During the financial year ended 30 June 2004:

- (a) No officer of STTARS, a firm of which an officer a member or a body corporate in which an officer has a substantial financial interest, has receive or become entitled to receive a benefit as a result of a contract between the office, firm or body corporate and STTARS;
- (b) No officer of STTARS has received directly or indirectly from the association any payment or other benefit of a pecuniary value except as noted below:

David Shepherd

Alan Lucas

15 October 2004

**THE SURVIVORS OF TORTURE & TRAUMA  
ASSISTANCE & REHABILITATION SERVICE INC. (STTARS)**

**BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 30TH JUNE 2004**

	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cheque Account	17,172	4,076
Cash Management Account	190,950	228,601
Cash Management Account Building Fund	-	20,000
Emergency Fund Account	27	210
Petty Cash Fund	300	300
Accounts Receivable	22,402	116,587
GST Paid	4,664	2,969
	<u>235,515</u>	<u>372,743</u>
<b>NON CURRENT</b>		
Plant & Equipment - at cost	101,996	136,265
Accumulated Depreciation	( 46,706)	( 63,431)
Motor Vehicles - at cost	22,936	22,936
Accumulated Depreciation	( 12,098)	( 14,537)
	<u>66,128</u>	<u>81,233</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>301,643</u>	<u>453,976</u>
<b>LESS: LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Pay Clearing Account	3,618	3,880
Accounts Payable	20,279	17,795
GST Collected	19,928	28,591
Income Received in Advance	39,893	74,455
Provision for Annual Leave	20,400	32,800
Provision for Long Service Leave	16,900	22,400
Provision for Redundancies	-	30,000
Provision for Research Projects	-	30,000
Provision for Sick Leave	-	2,000
	<u>121,018</u>	<u>241,921</u>
<b>NON CURRENT</b>		
Building Fund Reserve	-	20,000
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<u>121,018</u>	<u>261,921</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u>\$180,625</u>	<u>\$192,055</u>
<b>REPRESENTED BY MEMBER FUNDS</b>		
Balance B/F Previous Year	67,083	180,625
Prior Year Adjustment	(11,932)	958
Plus: Surplus for the Year	<u>125,472</u>	<u>10,472</u>
	<u>180,625</u>	<u>192,055</u>

**THE SURVIVORS OF TORTURE & TRAUMA  
ASSISTANCE & REHABILITATION SERVICE INC. (STTARS)**

**STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2004**

	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
<b>GRANTS</b>		
DHAC Annual Grant	141,456	144,856
DHS Grants	109,300	135,000
CBSA Grants	6,045	27,731
EHAIS Grants	463,547	492,016
FACS Emergency Relief Grant	2,055	2,095
JJJ Grant	-	14,592
SAHT Toy Grant	1,818	2,190
Toy Resource Grant	1,061	-
	<u>725,282</u>	<u>818,480</u>
<b>OTHER</b>		
Bank Interest	5,419	8,343
Donations	5,144	1,218
Fundraising	986	1,357
Subscriptions	773	1,023
Sundry Income	7,740	3,621
Training & Workshop Fees	409	-
	<u>20,471</u>	<u>15,562</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<u>745,753</u>	<u>834,042</u>
<b>LESS EXPENSES</b>		
Audit Expenses (The Auditors did not receive any other benefits)	1,100	1,330
Advertising	77	253
Bank Charges	2,446	2,853
Cleaning Expenses	3,978	4,433
Consultancy Fees	6,856	6,038
Computing Expenses	1,130	-
Depreciation	12,884	19,272
F.A.S.S.T. Expenses	0	8,092
Insurance	1,209	1,900
Interest Paid	3,678	0
Internet Expenses	284	727
Interpreting Costs	31,374	25,028
Light & Power	2,639	3,418
Loss on disposal of assets	13,434	1,036
Long Service Leave	3,496	5,500
Motor Vehicle Expenses	21,666	28,324

	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
	\$	\$
<b>LESS EXPENSES continued</b>		
OH&S Fees	0	1,200
Payline Expenses	1,977	2,129
Postage	1,602	1,708
Printing & Stationery	9,170	24,599
Projects	11,119	32,063
Rent, Rates & Taxes	6,986	6,874
Repairs & Maintenance	2,568	3,275
Research Expenses	0	30,000
Salaries & Wages	407,370	509,543
Security	283	470
Staff Amenities	1,234	1,919
Subscriptions	802	965
Sundry Expenses	11,501	6,855
Superannuation	34,977	40,352
Telephone	12,459	11,928
Training & Development	1,893	3,630
Travel & Accommodation	2,022	5,358
WorkCover	8,065	12,498
	620,279	803,570
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b>	125,474	30,472
Less Building Fund Appropriation Surplus for the Year	0	20,000
<b>SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b>	\$125,474	\$10,472

**SURVIVORS OF TORTURE & TRAUMA  
ASSISTANCE & REHABILITATION SERVICE INC.****Notes to and forming part of the financial report as at 30 June 2004****1. Statement of Accounting Policies**

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the annual financial reporting requirements of the Survivors of Torture & Trauma Assistance & Rehabilitation Service Inc. (STTARS).

The Board has determined that STTARS is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the following applicable Accounting Standards:

- AAS 1: Profit and Loss Accounts
- AAS 5: Materiality
- AAS 6: Accounting Policies
- AAS 8: Events Occurring After Balance Date

No other applicable Accounting Standard, Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views or other authoritative announcement of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

The financial report has been prepared on the basis of historical cost and does not take into account changing money values or current valuations of non-current assets. Comparative information is reclassified where appropriate to enhance comparability.

The following specific accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

**(a) Income Tax**

STTARS is exempt from income tax under the provisions of Section 50-40 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

**(b) Plant & Equipment**

The depreciable amount of all Plant & Equipment is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to STTARS commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

**(c) Employee Entitlements**

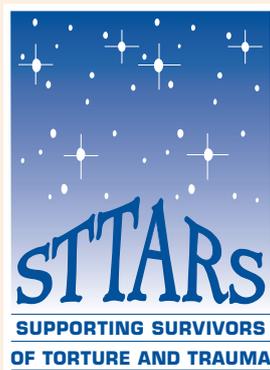
Provision is made for STTARS liability for employee entitlements arising from services rendered by employees to balance date.

**(d) Inventories**

Inventories consist of publications and are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

**(e) Revenue**

For the year ended 30 June 2004, government and other grants are brought to account as income by STTARS to reflect the extent to which they have been earned. Amounts which have been received but which are not yet due to STTARS are recorded as a current liability "Income Received in Advance".



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