



QPASTT

Queensland program of assistance
to survivors of torture and trauma

Newsletter April, 2015

From the Director

My name is Tracy Worrall. I am the Director at QPASTT, and I would like to welcome readers to this first edition of the QPASTT newsletter for 2015. QPASTT is a remarkable organisation and I continue to feel immensely privileged to be able to witness the positive contribution that this service makes to the lives of people who have fled persecution and war to seek safety in Australia every year. This newsletter aims to inform community members, service providers and QPASTT members about our services, staff, projects and upcoming events in general. I hope you find it interesting, informative and entertaining. Please feel free to send us any feedback that you consider appropriate. Happy reading!



QPASTT: Restoring light when the flame of hope is out



Queensland Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma or QPASTT as we are widely known is synonymous with a tree.

Very often clients and friends of QPASTT will always ask you; oh you mean that place with a tree? Yes it is but why the tree? For us at QPASTT this question is just a start of the conversation.



Our green tree logo portrays the recovery process from torture and trauma, which is our core area of service. The rock on which the tree is growing represents the hardship survivors have experienced, both before and sometimes after migration.

It represents the process of regrowth for the individual, families and communities. This is initially very painful but often culminates with flowering again in a new environment while its branches signifies our client's ability to reach out and re-connect with others, which in turn, if there is a positive response, feeds the tree's growth.

Simple right? Everyone would wish such growth is dramatic. In our area, however, this process involves extensive quality service delivery to our clients.

All the work we do is captured well on our [website](#) but we are also happy to give a snapshot in this newsletter for those of you reading about our services for the first time. We will focus on giving information about our programs each newsletter so we can keep in touch!

For more information pop into any of our offices and outreach services in regional areas for our [translated brochures](#).

Robert Mukombozi - Community Development Worker (QPASTT)

QPASTT Main Office

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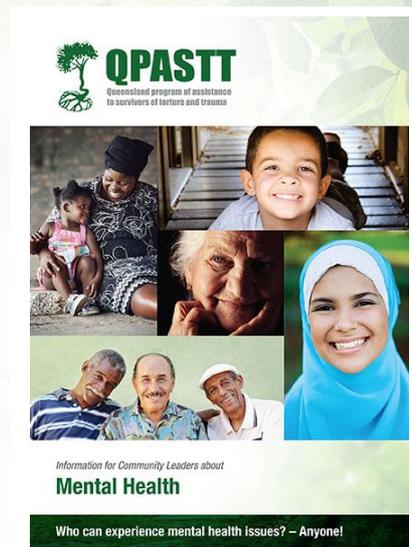
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New Resource!

Mental Health Information for CALD Community Leaders

QPASTT have worked with Community Leaders to develop a brochure and magnet to help leaders find services for advice and support if they are worried about somebody in their community.

Pick up your free copy from QPASTT today or download an e-copy from www.qpastt.org.au/resources/for-clients/



Asylum Seeker Update

Information Sheets available in five languages.

Refugee and Immigration Legal Service (RAILS) in partnership with QPASTT have developed an information sheet for asylum seekers who arrived by boat and have not yet applied for asylum. The information sheet gives information about Temporary Protection Visas and Safe Haven Enterprise Visas and what to do while you are waiting for your application to be processed. They are available in English, Tamil, Arabic, Farsi and Dari from www.rails.org.au/publications

News!

African House on the move!

The East Brisbane based headquarters of the Queensland African Communities Council (QACC) is being relocated to a new premises at Morningside. The new facility is bigger, spacious and easily accessible by public transport. QACC is calling for volunteers to support the refurbishment before they are fully settled into their facility located at 10 Jean Howie Drive Morningside. Initial work starts from 9am – 5pm on Sat 18 and Sun 19 April and final touches scheduled for Sat 2 and Sun 3 May. For more information www.qacc.com.au/africanhouse or call 0450 965 200.



The new African House in Morningside.

Training Opportunity

Working with Young People from Refugee Backgrounds including Unaccompanied Minors

28 May 2015 9:30 am @ Brisbane Multicultural Centre, 28 Dibley Street, Woolloongabba
For more information or to register www.qpastt.org.au/training There is a cost for this training but talk to our Training Coordinator, Elise Barton about a discount for Community Leaders

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www.qpastt.org.au

Upcoming Events



Welcome to Africa Day Festival – Sun 31st May, 10am – 5pm

The new African House, 10 Jean Howie Drive, Morningside

The Queensland African Communities Council (QACC) is giving all Queenslanders the chance

to taste African culture at its best through music, food, fashion, poems and presentations about and from this beautiful continent. There will be plenty of games for kids too, while parents are being immersed in a spectrum of entertainment and educational activities from strolling through services information stalls to drumming workshops. Over 7,000 people attend this festival each year so please reach for your calendar and mark the day. Karibu (welcome) to Africa in Queensland. www.qacc.com.au

ECCL Kaleidoscope Multicultural Street Festival – Sun 7th June, 2015 (8am-2pm)

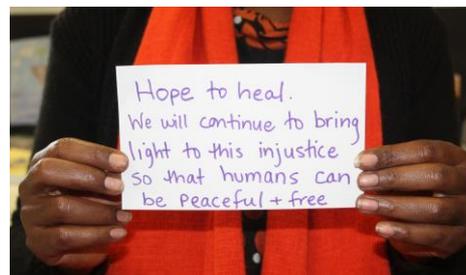
Woodridge Sunday Market (opposite Woodridge Train Station).

The Ethnic Communities Council of Logan will be holding a one day large Multicultural Street Festival of 2 Events in 1 day Festival on This year's festival is under the banner "Qld Week Global Food Village Festival and Kaleidoscope K 15 Multicultural Street Festival". It is running for the 10th year and is estimated to attract over 215 diverse communities living in the Logan area. www.eccl.org.au

International Day Against Torture (IDAT) – QPASTT Event – Fri 26th June, 2015 9.30am

Brisbane Multicultural Centre, 28 Dibley St, Woolloongabba

Start thinking about that message of hope and support that would make a difference in the life of a torture and trauma victim across the globe then join us at our International Day Against Torture event. Remember to write down your message in Support of Victims of Torture and we will deliver it. This is also a great opportunity to meet and network with representatives from our key government, non-government and community stakeholders. To have a feel of our previous IDAT events please visit www.qpastt.org.au/hope-heal/.



Queensland Music Festival – Under this sky – 6.30pm, 1-2 August, 2015

If there is something that really captivates individuals from refugee background and their communities it is music. The Queensland Music Festival has opened their doors and given refugee individuals, families and communities spots for orchestra, vocal and acting performances at their upcoming mega Logan Musical Celebration in partnership with Logan City Council. It will be exciting to see our clients and communities take their talent to the global arena at Queensland Music Festival 2015. To register please www.qmf.org.au/under-this-sky/ or contact Tara Hobbs tara@qmf.org.au.

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African Australian Women's Network



Mavice Hove, member of the QPASTT Community Relationships & Capacity Building Team met with the Lord Mayor Graham Quirk, when he invited women from African Australian Women's Network (AAWN) for morning tea. This was after AAWN held a successful International Women's Day celebration that was partly sponsored by Brisbane City council.

The Vision of the African Australian Women's Network is to be "united for the greater good of our communities". Their Mission is:

- *To unite African Australian women from diverse backgrounds and support women's initiatives by creating a safe place that fosters a sense of belonging and networking.*
- *To create a platform that acknowledges, celebrates and shares the richness and diversity of African cultures.*
- *To promote full social and economic participation in every aspect of Australian life.*

Meet QPASTT Staff



Meet Jim!

Jim Schirmer has been a counsellor in the Asylum Seeker Support Team since he joined QPASTT in September 2013.

In particular, Jim has a special role in support unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and helps to run group programs with these young people.

Outside of QPASTT, Jim enjoys watching sport, reading philosophy, cooking nearly anything and playing with his six-month old son.



Meet Saira!

Saira Buksh has worked at QPASTT for the past 8 years and her role in the Administration team she supports clients and staff with many administrative tasks. She sits at reception so will often be the one to welcome you to QPASTT!

In her free time, Saira loves socialising, entertaining, reading, watching movies and going out for coffee!

The Editorial Team
Ally Wakefield & Robert Mukombozi
QPASTT - Community Relationships and Capacity Building Team

Have something you want to add to the next newsletter? Email
robertmukombozi@qpastt.org.au

