

churches to have people who speak their language. The cost of living has risen and for the refugees it is a struggle with some reporting only having one meal per day.

- The ARC has advocated to real estate agents and Housing NSW to provide affordable housing. Unfortunately, assistance has not been forthcoming. Housing NSW has over 5000 families and individuals awaiting housing to be granted.
 - The Torture and Trauma faced by many families and not being able to gain employment is leading to domestic violence within the household. This is as the dominant male is unable to provide for his family which is highly stressful. Due to this reason, I have joined a steering community on domestic violence in order to cater for these families.
 - The ARC assists all clients with anything and everything, we also speak their language and we are knowledgeable in all mainstream services.
 - The ARC also advocates to mainstream services in relation to current issues.
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- Newly arrived youth are often involved in erroneous activities. Funding sought by the ARC for youth and aged care has been unsuccessful and therefore, a specialised and targeted ethno-specific service for Assyrian-Australians in this regard is not present. That being said, we continue to assist the elderly and youth on a voluntary basis.

The mix, coordination and extent of settlement services available and the effectiveness of these services in promoting better settlement outcomes for migrants

- Spread of services needs to be considered, centralised services create tensions by facilitating an atmosphere of competition.
- Many people who migrate or come as a refugee have faced torture and trauma – if this is not addressed it attracts the wrong behaviour as they have not dealt with their past experiences.
- Policies currently do not address the need for services beyond the 1-month period, particularly in the area of housing and food support.
- Influence of religious organisations – convincing migrants/refugees to join the religion in exchange for services and support, putting them in a place of vulnerability.
- Not enough support for living and rising costs of living in Fairfield.
- Case workers – lack of follow through beyond the initial consultation and service provision.
- Migrants become lost in transit, completely isolated from the community.
- This isolation contributes to anti-social behaviour in young people, their parents aren't able to offer them enough support so they seek validation through maladaptive means.
- Need for training and support for family and sponsors for a longer period of time.
- Need for non-religious, non-judgemental support.
- Services are inappropriate and patronising – particularly when migrants first arrive.
- Services don't factor in the lack of awareness about mental illness and cultural sensitivities around mental health. This needs to be dealt with through reflexive practice and ongoing support.
- English Intensive classes should not be delivered with an entire group of refugees of which speak the same language, as they remain speaking to each other in their native language.

As one of the main intake groups under Australia's humanitarian program, the Assyrian-Australian community continues to grow into one of the largest diaspora communities in Australia. The unique challenges faced by the community are exacerbated by the need for the diaspora community to continually provide assistance of the kind highlighted above to new arrivals. It is imperative that the Australian Government supports existing diaspora communities to better harness their existing strengths and capabilities to support new arrivals into their community.

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I pay my respect and acknowledge the **Cabrogal** people as the traditional owners of the land which I work & live on