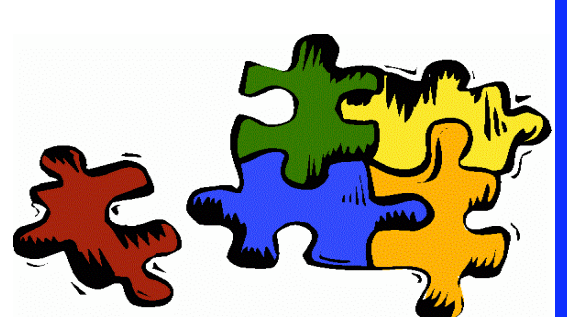
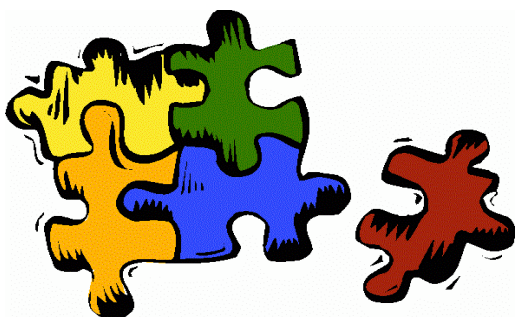


AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE OF
IMMIGRATION VOLUNTEERS



ANNUAL REPORT
2005-2006

Working together with Asylum Seekers
and Refugees



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President's Report

What a year it has been for ALIV. Twelve months ago we celebrated the release of children from immigration detention centers. At that point we believed that ALIV would not be required any more. But then as we were in the stages of starting to wrap things up we saw something that we wouldn't have thought possible. That some of the kids and families found themselves in a situation far worse.

We were suddenly hit with the reality of a "Bridging Visa E": some of our families found themselves unable to access government assistance for food, accommodation, education and Medicare. And worst of all they were unable to work to provide these things.

Basically, charities donating these things were there only way to access these basic survival needs.

No money or lack of money also saw families unable to travel and they became isolated resulting in some of the younger children losing their English and their development started to reverse.

It was quite evident very quickly that ALIV needed to continue in a new and different capacity. After a few months of excursions we then decided to take on a more focused path to increase child protection standards far and beyond that required by law and then also to increase the development side of the program not only for children but also for volunteers.

The child development program saw the introduction of the charity program, a program that had our older kids helping other children and charities in the community. This program turned out to be more successful then we could ever have imagined. Not only did it prove to be by far the fastest developing program we had but our four boys between the ages of 13 and 16 received humanitarian awards for their achievements.

Volunteer development saw the start of our Saturday admin program where instead of having everyone do work in their own time on their own we brought everyone to one location at STARTTS in Carramar every second Saturday so that we could start our leadership program and teach volunteers how to run programs and charities to not only help ALIV but to also help them help other charities they are working with now and in the future. This also gave us the opportunity to create more fun during admin work.

It wasn't long before our Admin team was the largest ever. Before the Admin Saturdays we were faced with the fact that we would have to start reducing and cutting programs due to lack of funds but after a few months of the Saturday admin teams we found our account levels at the highest ever and many of our programs that we were unable to find funding for in the past now found themselves with funding.

Just when we thought that things couldn't get any better we received a humanitarian award from the Red Cross for our work with refugees.

And then just recently we received an award for the best volunteer organization in NSW in the category of welfare awarded by National Australia Bank.

Another thing I am exceptionally proud of is how ALIV is developing Leaders of the Future. 12 months ago I thought that it would be at least 5 years before we could hand over ALIV to a new president but the Leadership programs also worked faster than I could have imagined. As we now have many people capable of guiding ALIV's future I find myself in a position to resign so I can move forward and give the knowledge to other charities that ALIV has given to me.

I would like to thank all our sponsors for last year including Sisters of Charity, St George Bank, National Australia Bank, the Ian Potter Foundation, Pilot Light, STARTTS, and all the supporting organizations that have given us so many discounts and helped allow us to run more programs more often.

I would like to thank all our volunteers both past and present that have helped us to build this magnificent organization and last but not least I would love to thank the families and children that in trusting me to help them have given back to me more than I ever had a chance to give.

Thanks to all.

Gary Taylor
ALIV President

Vice President's Report

It has been a tremendous year for ALIV. The enthusiasm and growth of the organisation have made it a pleasure to manage. Our kids, families and adults, volunteers, management team and community partners are nothing short of inspiring.

From July 2005, ALIV successfully re-directed its programs and re-organised its structure to cater for the needs of kids and families in the community while still working with adults in immigration detention. Working with kids and families on Bridging Visa E and in Community Detention and building ALIV's organisational structures was challenging, fun and extremely rewarding.

Over the past year ALIV ran English programs for adults in immigration detention, three camps for kids and families in the community, many family and kids' excursion programs and also began new programs. The piloting and success of our weekly child protection program and our charity program were great experiences for the volunteers and the kids.

We also began a new organisational admin structure, where program management teams, as well as fundraising and recruitment teams, get together on Saturdays to do all the work that needs to be done to run ALIV. Our Saturday admin structure is proving very successful with volunteers enjoying working, problem solving, arguing over how lunch is prepared and tearing their hair out (just kidding!) in teams. Thank you, management volunteers, for your dedication, good humour and commitment to the kids, families and adults.

I would like to recognise our private, community and corporate sponsors and supporters. Thanks to everyone who has donated funds and equipment to keep the ALIV programs up and running. I would like to specially recognise the Sisters of Charity for their support of our Kids Program. Thank you to STARTTS for all their support of ALIV and for providing us with office and training space.

A huge thanks to the kids, families and adults ALIV works with for making the programs so much fun, for always smiling and laughing and asking when we will be having McDonalds and for putting so many smiles on our faces!

Finally, thanks to all the ALIV volunteers – without you our programs could not run. It is an amazing achievement to run so many programs and a very successful organisation with only volunteers, so a massive pat on the back to you all. A gigantic thanks to ALIV's outgoing President, Gary Taylor, for building this extraordinary organisation and for being an inspiration to so many children and volunteers!

I look forward to watching ALIV grow and continue to be the wonderful organisation that it is over the coming year.

Zoe Ross
ALIV Vice President



PROGRAM REPORTS



Family Excursion Program

ALIV Family Programs have come a long way since our families were released from Detention. The very first program held upon their release was an astounding success at Manly beach, where the children, parents and volunteers ran happily among the waves and sand, enjoyed fish and chips in the sunny plaza and were treated to some gourmet ice cream. This first success was accompanied by a journalist from The Telegraph, who documented the momentous occasion and published the account in The Sunday Telegraph.

The Family Program went under way with an initial rocky start. We held the first several at Liberty Grove, where there is a grassy public picnic space, swimming pool and BBQ area, which proved an excellent venue until we were able to branch out visiting more places around Sydney as better logistical arrangements were trailed and put into place.

Highlights include:

August 2005- Merrylands Adventure Playground, where we were entertained by the PCYC concert with local youth break dancing, singing and performing, had a BBQ picnic and played sports

October 2005- Liberty Grove: We were lucky to have the Taronga Mobile Zoo come out to visit us, and we were able to touch and learn about native reptiles, marsupials and bird life first hand!

February 2006- We went to Taronga Zoo, exploring the animal exhibits all day, and watching the seal and bird shows was very exciting!

March 2006- Kids Afloat. Thanks to the invitation from STARTTS, we were able to participate in "Kids Afloat", where we were entertained by clowns, musicians and face painters on Cockle Bay Wharf, Darling Harbour and went on a free ferry ride around beautiful Sydney Harbour!

April 2006- La Perouse Headland. We swam, relaxed in the sun, played games and enjoyed a lovely day out at this gorgeous venue.

May 2006- Clontarf Beach, Mosman. The families picnicked and swam at Clontarf Beach and were thrilled to be able to go on a jet boat cruiser ride courtesy of one of our volunteers at 90km/hr out to The Heads!

June 2006- Centennial Parklands. We picnicked in the sunshine, played a mass game of soccer and rode bikes, scooters, blades and skate boards around the Children's Cycleway in this stunning venue in the heart of the city.

Karlie Hindmarsh
Family Program Manager

Kids Excursion Program

Following the success of the pilot buddy program in 2005, the Kids program (formerly called the buddy program) has grown into a thriving and exciting feature of ALIV. Once a month the kids who are independent enough to be without their parents are taken on excursions with a group of volunteers.

The objective of the program is to be developmental for the kids, while they have fun, and to foster a mentoring friendship between each child and their volunteer 'buddy'. The Kids program relies on suggestions from the kids and volunteers as to the activities they want to do. This means that the programs can be uniquely tailored to the age group of the kids and their interests. Activities this year included ice skating, a visit to Luna Park, sailing with Sailability, the Easter Show and rock climbing. What a year! The buddy program would not be possible without our fabulous volunteers who never cease to have fun and are always enthusiastic.

There are also some other people and groups who need to be thanked for their contribution to the program. I would first like to thank Gary Cachia from STARTTS for generously driving the kids and volunteers in the bus. I would like to make a general thank you to all of the staff of the venues we have visited with the program this year for their enthusiasm for the program and their support.

Last but not least I would like to say a big thanks the Sisters of Charity for their generous provision of a grant from March 2006. Their partnership with ALIV, and the friendly and useful chats with their CEO, Geoff George, have been integral in expanding this wonderful program.

Mariko Lawson
Kids Program Manager

Charity Program

The Charity Program was formed in early 2006 in response to the interest of the ALIV kids themselves wanting to help other kids. The program involves the kids being trained in balloon tying, face painting, magic tricks and other skills. They then use these skills to provide fun and increase the quality of life for disadvantaged, disabled and hospitalised children in the community. At the moment the program is still being piloted with four children taking part.

We started the program off with a bang (literally, hundreds of balloons popping!) at Rivendell Child Adolescent Unit, Concord Hospital. In a four day camp, the boys were introduced to all aspects of ballooning, magic and clowning and we finished the week off with our first performance at the Starlight Room in Westmead Children's Hospital. The kids were a hit with young and old and brought smiles to everyone's faces.

Throughout the year there have been numerous performances in the Starlight rooms at both Randwick and Westmead Hospitals. We also participated in Magic Mania, went on the Cruise for Charity and performed at Camp Quality. In between these performances we were also able to go on some great excursions like white water rafting, fishing, Laser Zone, and Go Karting to name a few.

Thanks to the four boys who have worked so hard and been so enthusiastic about the program. Their commitment, confidence, growing talents and their abilities to make disadvantaged kids laugh and smile is inspiring. And big congratulations to them as well for receiving two humanitarian awards each for their contribution to the refugee and Australian community from STARTTS in October 2006.

The program could not have happened without the amazing help from all of the wonderful volunteers, and a big thank you should go to Gary Taylor and Zoe Ross who have put so much time and effort into this program to get it up and running. It has been great to be able to see the four boys grow and develop throughout the year.

Jane Kensell
Charity Program Manager

Child Protection Program

The Child Protection program is an intensive program designed to respond to children and families in particularly high risk situations. Each program is designed to suit their individual needs.

ALIV first experimented with this program in late 2005 when it started taking one of our families on a specially tailored program of their own.

ALIV properly piloted the Child Protection Program for the first time in March 2006. It was piloted with two children as a weekly homework program in Auburn. The boys in the program responded very well to this extra assistance program – their confidence, their general well-being and their abilities increased.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped to get the program up and running between March and June 2006, particularly Jeannie Wan, Jennifer Wu and Karlie Hindmarsh. Their commitment to the boys and to the program was integral to its success.

A special thanks to all the kids who were and are part of the program - for their patience with their homework, their improvement over the past year, their good humour, their honesty, their jokes, knowing the ALIV rules and reciting them all the time (it doesn't stop them from breaking them!!), their constant curiosity, and for giving stuff a go.

We all look forward to expanding this program and giving more kids the opportunity to benefit from it.

Zoe Ross
ALIV Vice President

Camps

ALIV ran three very successful camps over the year. Before anything else, I would like to thank John XXIII College at the Australian National University, Canberra and Rivendell Adolescent Unit, Concorde Hospital for so generously supporting our camp programs over the year and for the friendliness and helpfulness of their staff. Thanks also to STARTTS for lending out their bus to ALIV to help with transport.

In November 2005, the ALIV kids went to Canberra for three days. It was a heap of fun and a year later the kids are still asking when they can go back! The War Memorial, the Waterslide Park and Questacon were all big hits with the kids. The main theme of the camp was the kids leading the volunteers by example, and sometimes sheer manipulation (remember the kids and the 'Free Fall' at Questacon!), into doing daring activities like confronting massive water slides. The kids also particularly enjoyed staying at John XXIII College, where there was a piano and microphone, a massive games and television room and lots and lots of good food! We were also lucky enough to have a few parents along, which created a really nice atmosphere.

In January and April 2006, two four-day camps were held at Rivendell Adolescent Unit, Concorde Hospital. The first was a family camp and the second was a camp just for the ALIV Charity kids, to kick-start the Charity Program. The kids love this beautiful location. Walking in the grounds, swimming, fishing, foosball, computer games and many more activities were enjoyed by all the kids. Dares were also the name of the game at the camps: when asked to come up with the scariest dare possible, the kids asked a couple of volunteers to go down to the woods near the water and stay there for a minute. We rewarded them with lots of screams when we got there (we weren't scared at all, of course!). We really look forward to working with Rivendell again in 2007 to run more camps for the ALIV kids.

Zoe Ross
ALIV Vice President

Adult English Program

A lot of progress has been made with the Adult ESL program this year. We've set up a new curriculum that's designed to meet the needs of the students while being flexible and convenient for the teachers. We've also managed to work through the staffing problems caused by considerable delays in the AFP clearance process thanks to the willingness of the cleared teachers to pitch in when necessary and the incredible patience of our new volunteers.

We are now fully staffed with more teachers on the way. Now that we are able to maintain a consistent presence in the centre, we have started to get students coming regularly. Our focus for next year is increasing student numbers. We are currently teaching in the Lima area but there are negotiations under way with GSL for our lessons to be moved into Stage 2 where we will have access to more potential students. With so many enthusiastic and friendly volunteers, we should have little trouble attracting students.

Alison Myers
Adult English Program

Committee Members 05-06

President:	Gary Taylor
Vice President:	Zoe Ross
Treasurer:	Declan Boylan
Secretary:	Gabriela Pulczynski
Ordinary Members:	Karlie Hindmarsh Mariko Lawson Jess Steiner

Website

www.aliv.org.au

This year the web site took on a new look to look more like a kids program. It continues to save many volunteer hours by processing volunteer application forms and we have now been able to set it up to receive donations.

A very big thanks to “The Pagesmith” for sponsoring our web hosting. And a very big thank you to our volunteer Aysha Ahmed for designing and maintaining our new wonderful site.

Gary Taylor
ALIV President

Grants and Fundraising

2005 was a good year for grants for ALIV and we would like to thank the Ian Potter Foundation for providing the funds to purchase and equip our wonderful program trailer and Bankstown Council for their generous support of our excursion program.

2006 began well for ALIV on the grants front, when we were notified in January that our application for funding from the Mercy Foundation/Sisters of Charity was successful. This gained ALIV a much-needed \$7750 to put towards the operation and development of the Kids Program.

The Grants Program experienced a burst of new activity from May 2006 with the appointment of a new Grants Manager, Ben Kite. A small team of grant writers was also recruited, and a new structure put in place to guide the grant process from scouting, through to writing, editing and sending off the finished product. Ginan Ashcroft became the second-in-charge of the Program, and by the end of June 2006 grant applications were beginning to roll out regularly from ALIV. The new structure has increased output and set a solid foundation for the Program's success in 2006-07 and further improvements and changes can be expected.

Ben Kite
Grants Manager

Recruitment

After the kids got out of detention in July 2005, ALIV saw a lot of change, including the moving on of many volunteers. A slow but steady trickle of volunteers in the last half of 2005 kept our programs rolling.

From 2006, ALIV recruitment gained new momentum as our new programs really began to develop and expand. Scouting and an enthusiastic recruitment team have meant ALIV has seen a lot of volunteers come through our interview and training system in 2006.

A committed and loyal recruitment and training team has seen ALIV re-fuelled with a new generation of volunteers. Frequent team meetings and an open casual environment have helped the recruitment team develop and thrive.

I would like to thank the ALIV recruitment team for their commitment and for their genuine interest and passion to contribute to ALIV's goals and objectives. I look forward to building our team, our skills and recruiting more volunteers to run more ALIV programs and assist more kids and families in the year to come.

Clarette Crame
Recruitment Manager

Financial Statement

ALIV

Income Statement

Income

	<u>2003/04</u>	<u>2004/05</u>	<u>2005/06</u>
Grants	\$0	\$2,095	\$9,000
Membership	\$1,872	\$3,480	\$1,461
Donations	\$4,060	\$26,938	\$4,934.95
Fundraising	\$210	\$620	\$570
Interest Rec'd	\$10	\$81	\$90.59
Total Income	\$6,152	\$33,214	\$16,057

Costs

Communications	\$79	\$1,378	\$730
Bank Charges	\$0	\$99	\$757.40
Food	\$0	\$2,274	\$2,348.54
Accomodation	\$0	\$658	\$0
Misc Expenses	\$0	\$1,118	\$14,560
Excursions	\$0	\$1,860	\$3,917.35
Admin	\$0	\$137	\$68.53
Equipment	\$0	\$1,061	\$1,189.94
Depreciation - Misc Assets	\$0	\$1,335	\$667
Travel	\$485	\$6,618	\$2,757.02
Total Costs	\$564	\$16,538	\$26,996
Net Income	\$5,588	\$16,676	-\$10,939

Balance Sheet

Fixed Assets

Fixed Assets - Misc	\$0	\$2,669	\$2,669
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Current Assets

Deposit Account	\$4,526	\$15,531	\$1,344.78
Reserve Account	\$205	\$206	\$207.62
Excursions Account	\$1,281	\$702	\$6,312.88
buddy Account	\$684	\$3,308	\$3,460.13
Total Current Assets	\$6,728	\$21,095	\$11,325.41

Current Liabilities

Pre-paid Membership	\$1,140	\$1,200	\$0
Creditors	\$0	\$300	\$0

<u>Total current Liabilities</u>	<u>\$1,140</u>	<u>\$1,500</u>	<u>\$0</u>
This Years Net Income	\$5,588	\$16,676	<u>-\$10,939</u>
Last year's Accumulated Funds	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$5,588</u>	<u>\$22,264</u>
<u>Total Accumulated Funds</u>	<u><u>\$5,588</u></u>	<u><u>\$22,264</u></u>	<u><u>\$11,325</u></u>