



Act for Peace Leads the Way on Protection

Act for Peace's pioneering work has brought protection issues to the forefront internationally. In July 2011, a Regional Protection Workshop and Protection Train the Trainer Program in Bangkok brought together 32 participants from 10 ACT National Forums across the Asia-Pacific region. This five-day event was aimed at strengthening the protection work of ACT members and Act for Peace partners. Participants from the Thailand Burma Border Consortium and International Rescue Committee also attended.

“We’d rather go hungry for a week, than face the daily threat of being arrested, killed or raped.”

– Bosnian Refugee

With an increase in armed conflicts, attacks on civilians, violence against women, persecution, forced displacement and exploitation exacting a heavy toll on local communities, Act for Peace made the decision to increase our support for protection work.

The question was: what could we do? We are not peacekeepers and we are not police. So how were we going to stop local militia from raping women or people being deprived of aid?

The problem was not a lack of options. There is an endless list of things aid agencies can do to improve safety and security. It is often simple things like providing better lighting around toilet blocks in refugee camps to deter sexual assaults or reducing the risk of women being raped while recollecting firewood outside the camps by providing alternate cooking fuels or fuel-efficient stoves. The question was: how do we get everyone prioritising and practicing protection? How were we going to get the ground-swell of interest we needed to have a real impact?

Then we realised that what we have is a vast international network, not only solid long-term partners in conflict countries like Sudan and Sri Lanka, but a whole range of agencies within the global humanitarian system. We should be advocating to mobilise the resources and support of those who have the real power to provide better protection.

That decision is now paying off. With little more than the expertise of staff and a good network of contacts, we have made significant inroads in mobilising the resources and support of other international aid agencies as well as the Australian government's overseas aid program, AusAID.

After working with other Australian NGOs to bring together a Protection Working Group under the Australian Council for International Development, we lobbied AusAID to:

- set up a Protection Unit;
- prioritise protection within AusAID's Humanitarian Action Policy;
- draft a Protection Framework setting out a clear strategy for its work, and;
- increase funds for protection work.

Just over one year later, AusAID is now committed to acting on each of these requests.

A similar approach was taken with our network of ACT Alliance members. Having a vast network of ecumenical humanitarian and development agencies with a combined budget of 1.5 billion and 30,000 staff, we decided the most effective course of action was to mobilise ACT and its members. We encouraged them to pool resources and expertise to help our partners struggling to prevent and respond to human rights abuses in countries like Somalia, Ethiopia and Sri Lanka.

In 2009, we brought together ACT members from around the globe and set up a Protection Working Group within ACT Alliance. We set up a system for deploying protection specialists in emergencies, and the Protection Working Group has just delivered the second Regional Protection Workshop for ACT members.

The first workshop, which was hosted by the All Africa Conference of Churches in Nairobi, Kenya, brought together 40 ACT staff from 13 conflict countries in East Africa – from Sudan to Somalia. The second, in Bangkok, Thailand, brought together a similar number of ACT staff from the Asia-Pacific region.

Two years later, we now have a strong ACT Protection Policy obligating all agencies to prioritise the safety, dignity and rights of conflict- and disaster-affected people.

Helping Communities Affected by Disaster

We wrote in last year's annual report that 2010 saw the continuing trend of more frequent and larger-scale natural disasters. Sadly, this trend seemed to accelerate in 2011.

Our project partners are currently assisting over one million people most affected by natural disasters such as famine, floods and earthquakes.

Vulnerable communities are the most affected, as the impact of these disasters exceeds local coping capacity and many of these communities are dependent on external assistance from aid agencies such as Act for Peace and our local project partners. Our partners have the technical knowledge and experience to mobilise and respond immediately to disasters and this action has often been crucial in assisting the survival and recovery of affected communities.

That said, as we saw with flood-affected communities in Queensland, it is amazing to behold the resilience of some communities who we assume will collapse after losing so much. The way communities respond and rebuild after a disaster, when assisted, is inspiring to watch.

Over the past year, through the generosity of people across Australia who supported our emergency appeals, Act for Peace provided assistance to communities most affected by disasters. This work included both emergency responses and longer term efforts to re-establish livelihoods and essential infrastructure, and better prepare communities for future crises.

Some of the critical activities undertaken by our partners include:

- Providing emergency food parcels and non-food packages including hygiene items, kitchen utensils, blankets, tarpaulin and mosquito nets;
- Providing trauma counselling and targeted assistance to especially vulnerable groups including people with a disability, female-headed households and the elderly;
- Supporting reconstruction of housing, both through temporary shelter and permanent, disaster-resilient homes;
- Rebuilding livelihoods through the provision of tools and cash support and specialist training to provide income generation opportunities for resource-poor families;
- Providing immediate and longer-term curative and preventive health services for communities at risk, including vaccinations, disease control, first aid and general consultations; and
- Carrying out community-based disaster risk reduction trainings to enhance awareness and capacity to identify hazards, prepare and respond better to disasters.



Our Emergency Responses

Pakistan Floods

In the twelve months following the devastating monsoon floods of July 2010, Act for Peace's project partners have worked to help people across Pakistan to rebuild their lives.

The floods — the worst to ever hit Pakistan — forced millions of people to leave their homes for safety, and left a trail of destroyed houses, water-supply schemes, farmland and infrastructure. An estimated 18 million people were affected by the torrential floods, and almost 2,000 lost their lives. A year later, one million people in 31 affected districts were still in need.

During the emergency phase, Act for Peace's partner provided food relief and supplies such as hygiene kits, kitchen utensils, mosquito nets and water buckets.

Now, work has moved into the rebuilding phase. Our partner is providing training to community members at the Construction Trade Training Centre in the southern Thatta District. Through this intensive three-month course, young men can train to become certified plumbers, welders, construction workers, electricians and builders. At the end of the course, each graduate receives a full tool kit to get them started in their new careers. As skilled labourers, they can earn twice to three times as much income to help support their families.

The floods created devastation in rural communities dependent on agriculture. In an effort to restore the lost livelihood opportunities of affected communities in Shangla district, Act for Peace's partner is working to facilitate the recovery of local livestock based livelihoods, for example, by distributing milking cows and calves to families, and training veterinary extension workers. The workers will further build the skills and capacities of local community members while working to promote the dairy sector in the area.

Libya Violence

Act for Peace responded with emergency assistance when conflict broke out in Libya in February 2011. The uprising, inspired by events in neighbouring Tunisia and Egypt and sparked by the arrest of a Libyan human rights campaigner, escalated into a bloody battle for territory between government and rebel forces in the west and east of the country. Many were killed as authorities tried to suppress the revolt.

In the months after the crisis began, hundreds of thousands of people fled Libya, most of them migrant workers from Egypt, Pakistan, Sudan, Eritrea and other countries who feared for their lives if they remained in Libya. Most fled to Tunisia and Egypt. Act for Peace has supported partners who are providing humanitarian assistance in refugee camps on the Tunisian and Egyptian borders with Libya.

We have also supported teams clearing weapons and unexploded ordnance. One team has recently been working in the city of Misrata. Bombing in Misrata began in a concerted attack by Muammar Gaddafi's forces and was intensified in March with NATO airstrikes. The NATO strikes have added an array of unexploded ordnance to a landscape strewn with thousands of unexploded shells, landmines, cluster munitions, artillery shells and mortar rounds, which pose a deadly hazard to the people of Misrata.

Haiti Earthquake

In January 2010, 230,000 people were killed, 300,000 injured and more than one million made homeless when a massive earthquake struck Haiti. The quake's epicentre was only 16 kilometres from Port-au-Prince, where some one million people live, many of them in sprawling shanty towns and extreme poverty. Around 10 million people live in Haiti and it is considered the most impoverished country in the western hemisphere.

The quake caused widespread destruction to homes, schools and other buildings, and major damage to water, electricity and road systems.

ACT Alliance members responded immediately to the disaster, providing 150,000 people with water, sanitation, shelter and regular food supplies/meals. Additional specific assistance in the form of cash, family kits, hygiene sets, medical assistance and supplies to health clinics was also provided to those identified as most in need in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake.

ACT partner Church World Service also provided services to 2,500 people with disabilities who were already living with limited means before the earthquake. Children and people with a disability are particularly vulnerable following a disaster. A key focus of Church World Service's work was to assist people or families living with a disability re-establish economic land activities through the provision of tools and training.



In the months following the earthquake, the rebuilding of lives has continued, and new challenges have emerged. For example, an outbreak of cholera in October 2010 caused the death of more than 3,400 people. ACT Alliance members responded with cholera-prevention education and training and the provision of clean water and support to clinics.

Japan Earthquake

On March 11 2011, a 9.0-magnitude earthquake struck the north-eastern coast of Japan, killing more than 15,000 people and causing serious damage to infrastructure. A massive earthquake-triggered tsunami washed away several coastal cities.

In the immediate aftermath of the disaster, relief priorities included rescue for those who were trapped, and the mobilisation of relief goods to evacuation sites. Act for Peace's partner, Church World Service, worked with local agencies to provide emergency relief to 25,000 people at 100 evacuation sites in the north east of Japan, and clear debris from homes, schools and businesses.

In the months following the disaster, more survivors have been moved from evacuation centres to temporary shelters, and the need for psychosocial support for victims of the disaster has become clear. Our partner is supporting work by local organisations in setting up mobile psychological care clinics, and providing recreational events at local community halls and temporary shelters. Church World Service and other agencies plan to carry on their work in the disaster-affected areas of Japan for several years to come.

Christchurch Earthquake

On February 22 2011, a 6.3-magnitude earthquake struck the Canterbury region of New Zealand, killing 181 people and causing widespread damage across Christchurch, especially in the central city and eastern suburbs.

Act for Peace's partner in New Zealand, Christian World Service, supported local church and community agencies working directly with the most vulnerable people affected by the quake. In the longer term, it will assist with trauma counselling and community rebuilding.

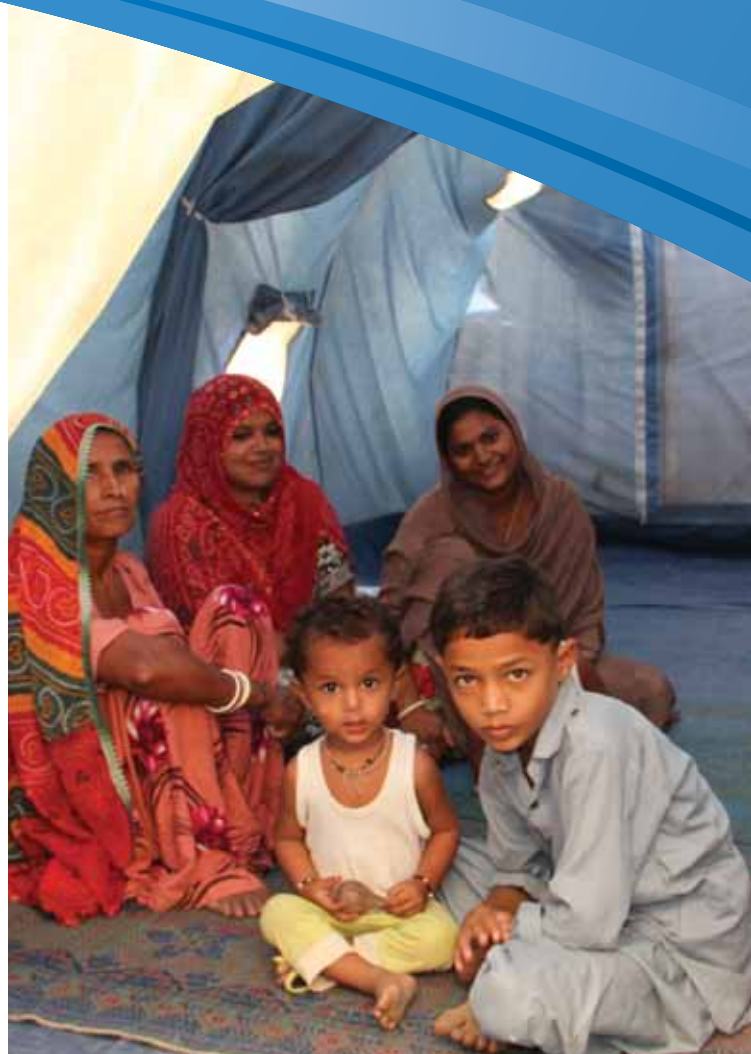
Horn of Africa

In 2011, a devastating food security crisis developed in East Africa. Across Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti, more than 12 million people have been affected.

Famine was declared in southern Somalia in July. The crisis in Somalia is particularly severe as a result of a combination of failed rains, soaring food prices and the ongoing armed conflict within the country.

ACT Alliance members responded quickly to the crisis, distributing food packages and water, improving water supplies and providing supplementary food for malnourished children. The Lutheran World Federation has managed the Dadaab refugee camp, in north eastern Kenya, for more than 20 years, with site planning, refugee community mobilisation, and camp peace and security. It assesses the vulnerability of new arrivals and provides shelter.

Act for Peace has supported weapons reduction and poverty alleviation programs in the region for decades. In Somalia, we support programs clearing thousands of weapons, landmines and other unexploded bombs. In Ethiopia, where up to 20 per cent of rural people are reliant on international food relief to survive, Act for Peace's partners have been working to improve agricultural skills and sanitation in order to build resilience and break the cycle of extreme poverty.



Anita (centre) sits with her family in a tent outside their home, still too damaged to live in one year after the floods.

ANITA'S STORY

“ My name is Anita Kheemahand and I live in the Thatta District of Pakistan, one of the regions most devastated by the flooding last year. When the floods came, we had so little notice that we just had to leave everything behind. We fled to a camp and stayed there for two months waiting for the water to recede.

When we finally returned home, everything was gone ... it was if our lives were washed away. If it weren't for the food packages we received, I don't know how we would have survived.

One year later, we are still living in a tent outside our home, but are hopeful for the future. My brother in law, Rajish, is now getting welding training thanks to your ongoing support at the new Construction Trade Training Centre. At the end of the course, he will sit the government exam to become officially certified and will receive a full tool kit to get him started.

Thank you, friends in Australia, for helping us survive one of the most difficult times in our lives.

Thank you as well for giving Rajish the skills to help us rebuild for the future.



Disaster Risk Reduction in the Pacific



Many Pacific Island nations are particularly vulnerable to natural disasters, like cyclones, storm surges and tsunamis, which place already fragile communities under even greater strain.

Act for Peace is the lead agency in the implementation of the Pacific Community-focused Integrated Disaster Risk Reduction (PCIDRR) project, which aims to improve the ability of villages to identify risks in their environment and take action to reduce and manage those risks. Act for Peace has continued to implement the project in the Solomon Islands, Fiji, Tonga and Vanuatu throughout 2011.

Over the past four years, field project officers have worked with more than 450 vulnerable communities, identifying in each one a community disaster management committee, and producing community disaster plans. After the community completes its plan, it carries out a simulation exercise to test its response arrangements.

Act for Peace also partners with the Pacific Conference of Churches to provide rural communities with small cash grants to rebuild and address livelihood issues as a result of natural disasters.

ROSINA'S STORY

“ My Name is Rosina. I'm 19 years old and I live in the village of Emiotungan in the volcanic hills of West Ambrym, an island in the central part of Vanuatu.

Our village has no water source nearby. One of my daily chores used to be to fetch water for my family from the creek below, which is quite a distance from the village. With the news of murder and rape cases that I heard on the radio, I was always uncomfortable walking to the creek on my own and preferred to go with others for safety and peace of mind.

Unfortunately, there were occasions when no one was available to accompany me. These solitary walks to the creek and back were very stressful experiences. I was tense and wary of every single noise as I made my way through the forest.

The Pacific Community-focused Integrated Disaster Risk Reduction Project, which is being

implemented by Act for Peace, changed all that. Through this project, a field project officer and training team came to our village. Following the training, the community began repairing existing damaged wells and started constructing new ones in the village.

People in the village have become more responsive after the disaster training as they realise that the wellbeing of the whole community depends upon what the community can do instead of waiting for outside help. I no longer do I need to walk to the creek on my own to fetch water. I am so happy, not only because the disaster training in my village will make us better prepared to face the next disaster, but also because our village now has a plan to do many things that will make life in our village safer and better. I am so happy to be a part of this.”



can train each of the ten members of a Community Disaster Management Committee.

Helping Communities in Australia

Indigenous Australians

Act for Peace supports the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ecumenical Commission (NATSIEC) in its work alongside Indigenous communities, churches and other organisations around Australia.

NATSIEC's Make Indigenous Poverty History campaign aims to ensure that the Millennium Development Goals do not overlook the poverty suffered by Indigenous people around the world, especially in Australia.

Through the Opening the Doors Foundation, NATSIEC helps young Indigenous people to reach their full potential and to confidently take their rightful place in the community.

In 2010, at the invitation of the National Council of Churches of Australia and NATSIEC, an ecumenical team of Indigenous and non-Indigenous

Christians from around the world visited Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory as part of the World Council of Churches' Decade to Overcome Violence. In 2011, the World Council of Churches issued a statement voicing its concern about the plight of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the Federal Government's Northern Territory Intervention.

NATSIEC produced prayer resources for use in churches for Sorry Day and the Week of Prayer for Reconciliation in May–June 2011. Also in 2011, NATSIEC facilitated the visit to Australia of Dr Anthony Reddie, an expert in the field of black theology, for the Christ and Culture conference.



can fill a secondary student's booklist for a year.

Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Said Ihsanullah Dileri, from Afghanistan, was granted asylum in Australia in 2010 after it became unsafe for him to return to his home. *"It was a big struggle initially to get my experience and my qualifications recognised in Australia. It took me nearly a year to get proper paid employment in my field."*

Soon after he arrived in Australia, Said participated in Act for Peace's Healing Trail, an experience that helped him to adjust to life in Australia. *"The Healing Trail was a great opportunity for me to build up my network of friends. I have made a few very good friends, who have provided great support to me at a time when I needed it."*

Healing Trails

Act for Peace's Healing Trails offer support and hospitality to newly-arrived refugees in Australia, helping them to adjust to life in a new and different place, and cope with the traumas of fleeing conflicts and wars in their countries of origin, living in refugee camps and detention centres and seeking asylum in Australia.

Healing Trails place groups of refugees and asylum seekers from major metropolitan areas in regional cities or small towns where they are hosted by Australian families.

Uniting Church minister the Rev. Gail Pritchard, one of the key people involved in the running of the Healing Trails, says: *"After an afternoon of hospitality in the intimacy of Australian homes where games were played, stories shared and even knitting, taught the evening program got underway with a generous community meal followed by refugee song,*

dance and story-telling. This sharing is a highlight of every Healing Trail for refugee and audience alike.

How could our hearts not be moved as personal trauma and family suffering unfolded? How could we resist the beat of the bongo drum, of hearty voices lifted in praise, the energy and drama of dance and rhythm? How could our hearts not be warmed by the upturned, trusting faces of little children as they sang their choruses to a room of strangers?

Strangers? Yes, but now friends; friends with new understanding and compassion; friends intent on staying in touch; friends offering future invitations of companionship and support to their guests, refugees in a foreign land."

Festival of Refugees

On August 21, St Kilda Town Hall came alive with African drums, Tibetan classical songs and traditional Sri Lankan dance at the Festival of Refugees. This annual event, an initiative of Act for Peace and the Victorian Council of Churches in partnership with local groups, highlights the creative, vibrant and diverse contributions refugees make to Australian society.

The Refugee Festival is part of Refugee and Migrant Sunday, which has been observed in Australian churches for more than 50 years. Refugee and Migrant Sunday, an ecumenical program, is a day to reach out and help brave people start new lives, and promote understanding, compassion and recognition of the needs and challenges facing refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. The Festival of Refugees, now in its fifth year, takes this celebration beyond the churches and into the wider community — a powerful way in which Act for Peace is able to express its commitment to refugees and asylum seekers in Australia and beyond.

The House of Welcome

Act for Peace is one of the major financial supporters of the House of Welcome, the largest provider of housing to asylum seekers in Sydney. Along with safe housing, the House of Welcome supports asylum seekers through financial assistance and a drop-in centre.

Act for Peace is proud to support this compassionate work, as an investment in restoring shattered lives and helping people who have come to Australia as asylum seekers and refugees to achieve their bid for a new life and become productive citizens of Australia.

Sri, who has been supported by the House of Welcome, shares: *"My wife Kala and I fled Sri Lanka in December 2008, following a*

build-up of dangerous events. Everyday there were shootings and bombs and a lot of arrests. When we landed in Australia, we applied for protection visas. Our bridging visas said we could work, but although we are both qualified engineers, employers were reluctant and questioned our situation very closely. It was a very hard time as we had no jobs, no proper accommodation and knew the situation at home was very bad. The turning point came when I received a call from the House of Welcome. They told me they could provide accommodation for us. It was a very remarkable day in our life. Since that time, House of Welcome staff have helped with so many parts of our lives."



Luzio Grossi

Australians Act for Peace

In the lead-up to the Christmas Bowl, Act for Peace Representatives at Montville Uniting Church set up a refugee tent and exhibition inviting their local community in with a sign that says, "Are you wondering about the connection between a tent like this and the birth of Jesus? Come inside to learn more."



The Christmas Bowl

Each year, churches across Australia go above and beyond with creative ideas and fundraising events to support the Christmas Bowl. For example, last year our Act for Peace Representatives at Montville Uniting Church in Queensland set up a refugee tent and full exhibition to educate their community on how gifts to the Christmas Bowl are helping people affected by conflict worldwide.

Daryl Reinke, Act for Peace Representative, described the event: *"The children made decorations for the Tree of Hope. Another tree represented the Gifts of Life – the necessities for people who have lost everything. Ornaments included mosquito nets, packages of seeds, loaves of bread, fishing nets, sewing materials like buttons and thread, screws and nails, buckets, soap and toothbrushes. Visitors were invited to add one of these items to the partially decorated tree. By the closing day of the display, spare spaces were hard to find."*

Thanks to the feedback from our kind supporters, Act for Peace continues to expand our range of Christmas Bowl resources and materials to help get people more active and involved. For example, for the 2010 Christmas Bowl, we extended our Christmas Bowl Cookbook which includes recipes from where we are working around the world, provided additional activities for churches to get more and involved and distributed an informative DVD which featured our work through the ACT Alliance.

The Christmas Bowl continues to be Act for Peace's largest educational and fundraising program. The Christmas Bowl began back in 1949 and has thrived for so long thanks to the passion of our dedicated supporters across Australia. Thanks to the ongoing support of churches and thoughtful individuals across Australia, the Christmas Bowl can continue to assist victims of conflict and poverty well into the future.

The Act for Peace Website

Act for Peace has launched an interactive and user-friendly campaigning module on our website to engage Australians in grass-roots advocacy initiatives. In April 2011, we invited supporters to write to their local Members of Parliament through our website, asking them to ban Australia's involvement in the use of cluster bombs (see next page).

We have also invited EAPPI participants to blog on our website to spread the word about the plight of Palestinians in Gaza and the daily hardships they face. The Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) is a program of the World

Council of Churches (WCC), in conjunction with local churches and Palestinian NGOs and communities, to bring internationals to the West Bank to experience life under occupation.

Through Facebook and Twitter, we are engaging in conversations with Act for Peace supporters and the broader Australian community about key issues that people affected by conflict face. Our website has links to all of our social networking pages such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, where our number of supporters continues to grow daily.

Please visit our website today at www.actforpeace.org.au.

Act for Peace Representatives

Since we started recruiting Act for Peace Representatives in early 2010, we have seen a rapid increase in the number of active volunteers who want to help beyond giving. Representatives speak to their congregations and communities about the work of Act for Peace, particularly in helping raise awareness and much needed funds for the Christmas Bowl. These dedicated individuals organise

Christmas Bowl events and carols nights, hand out gift envelopes throughout Advent and Christmas and promote the great work that our project partners are doing worldwide. Thank you to all our friends that have become Act for Peace Representatives. The work that you do is vital to ensuring that our project partners can continue to rebuild lives.



Act for Peace Partners

Thanks to the ongoing generosity and monthly financial commitment from our Act for Peace Partners, we can ensure that our project partners on the ground can continue their life-saving work.

Each month, Act for Peace Partners receive a Peace Mail from a person that they have helped support with their gifts. One Peace Mail featured in the lead up to the Referendum Election in Sudan, our project partner's work to sustain peace through the establishment of an effective democratic process by educating communities on voting. Helen Peter Gemma, Peace & Justice Coordinator, commented prior to the Referendum where the South voted for their independence from the North:

"I'm doing this work because I'm working for my country! I'm determined to see that the referendum is free and fair and that the people are given what they need to live freely."

With an increasing recognition of the importance of regular giving for long-term stability and organisational growth, Act for Peace will be investing further resources into growing the Partner program in 2011-12.

Campaigns

In 2011, Act for Peace significantly expanded its focus on and capacity to undertake advocacy campaigns. Recognising the importance of having peace-related issues such as protection of refugees and asylum seekers and disarmament at the forefront of the Australian political agenda, Act for Peace is committed to increasing its investment in campaigning over the long term.

International Day of Peace

Act for Peace partnered with TEAR Australia in the lead up to the International Day of Peace on September 21 with a wide range of initiatives to build awareness about peace-related issues. The International Day of Peace was established by a United Nations Resolution in 1981. On this day, individuals and organisations across the world are encouraged to engage in practical acts of peace to promote the broader goal of conflict resolution.

Act for Peace's activities included an online and social media push from September 1 to 21 which also provided resources on "21 Ways to Act for Peace"; a high-level event with Australian and international speakers at Parliament House in Canberra; and the call for a "political ceasefire" on the International Day of Peace. More information about the results of this campaign will be available in the 2012 Annual Report.

Act for Peace Wins ARPA Awards

Act for Peace won four Australasian Religious Press Association awards for 2010: the gold award for best original photograph for the 2010 Christmas Bowl cover image, best news release for "Christmas Bowl Delivers Aid as Crises Loom" and for item or feature that shows the most originality, for the Christmas Bowl video, which can be viewed on our website. Act for Peace's website won the silver award in the best website category.



Cluster Munitions Coalition Australia

Act for Peace has been an active member of the Cluster Munitions Coalition Australia, which is working to ensure that Australia passes strong legislation to ban cluster munitions in all their forms. Cluster bombs are large bombs with dozens or several hundred bomblets inside which are either dropped from the air or shot by artillery rockets and missile systems from the ground. They can lie dormant on the ground for years or decades after a conflict, creating heavy civilian

casualties. Although Australia signed the Cluster Munitions Convention in 2008, the legislation currently before the Australian Parliament is considered one of the weakest in the world, and Act for Peace, along with coalition partners, is campaigning to close the "loopholes". In June 2011, Act for Peace handed over close to 1000 letters and signatures to the Attorney General's office, and has been fundamental in bringing in other coalition partners.

Refugees and Asylum Seekers

In addition to the Festival of Refugees, the Healing Trails and the Refugee Conference (see p 31), Act for Peace launched an online campaign to end the policy of mandatory detention of asylum seekers and to work cooperatively on developing a regional framework to protect people fleeing persecution.

The petition calls for adopting a more flexible community release and support model to replace mandatory detention, ensuring that no children are held in detention, and supporting countries in our region to offer more effective protection to asylum seekers and refugees, ending the unhelpful and misleading political rhetoric surrounding asylum seekers and refugees and putting protection needs above divisive politics.

Coalition Campaigns

Act for Peace has been an active supporter of several coalition campaigns during 2011, including Make Poverty History, Simply Sharing Week, Jubilee Australia and the Robin Hood Tax, Micah Challenge and Voices for Justice, and the Ecumenical Working Group on Palestine and Israel.



Alison Locke