# Report On the Refugee Situation

Back in September 2015, the Government announced that New Zealand would welcome 750 refugees in response to the ongoing conflict overseas. Of the 750 places, 600 would be by way of a special emergency intake above New Zealand’s annual quota, and 150 places will be offered within the quota.

Since then, up to 205 former refugees have settled in Dunedin thanks to the huge amount of aid given to them via such agencies as Housing New Zealand, who provided a majority of the homes available to them, and the Red Cross Agency of whom supplied a vast amount of necessities needed.

Housing New Zealand (HNZ) as of 2016 to today had provided an estimate of over 50 houses to the 62 families that arrived since then, with HNZ working very closely with Red Cross in supplying a variety of services to them. The situation included the involvement of the Dunedin Refugee Steering Group, of which included representatives from the Ministry of Education, Southern District Health Board, Dunedin Multi Ethnic Council, English Language Partners, Housing New Zealand, Ministry of Social Development, Citizens Advice Bureau, as well as representatives from Red Cross and the DCC. Two people from refugee backgrounds will also be appointed as community representatives.

## Information Gathered From Red Cross Worker

Kelly Campbell, a Red Cross Agency social worker, states that they offer services that cover such aspects as social support and supply of such basics as white wear, furniture, and power. They have volunteers, of which there were over 700 of during the arrival of the refugee families, regularly visit these families every few months to ensure that they are all settled in and have satisfactory living conditions. The ongoing services that Red Cross offers are parenting and family support, as well as school enrolments and uniforms for the children.

However, Ms Campbell had also mentioned that not all families get internet access due to the limited resources available. Usually volunteers would talk to families about possible internet options, such as 2 degrees or Spark to see what suits them. A completely different programme, Computer & Homes, supplies second hand laptops and computers with subsidised internet access, but again due to limited resources only a few families receive them. This is something we could possibly take into account when writing up the proposal. Furthermore, the extent of the service supplied by the Red Cross Agency lasts for up to 12 months, of which is the allocated time period to aid families in settling into Dunedin.

Sources:

Interview – Kelly Campbell Red Cross Social Worker

Resettlement Anniversary - <http://community.scoop.co.nz/2017/04/dunedin-celebrates-refugee-resettlement-anniversary/>

NZ Refugee Quota Programme - <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/what-we-do/our-strategies-and-projects/supporting-refugees-and-asylum-seekers/refugee-and-protection-unit/new-zealand-refugee-quota-programme>