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Hi Friend,

Welcome to our July newsletter.

This edition celebrates the power of community, compassion and partnership in creating a brighter future for refugees, people seeking asylum and vulnerable migrants.

You'll read about the incredible success of our inaugural *Flavours of Hope* fundraiser, inspiring client stories that demonstrate the life-changing impact of legal assistance, and new ways you can support RAILS through initiatives such as Containers for Change and charitable giving.

We're also excited to introduce our refreshed brand, representing our commitment to improving access to justice through innovation and client-centered services.

Thank you for standing with RAILS and helping us create pathways to safety, belonging, and hope.



Malathi (Mal) Kanagasabapathy
CEO

A heartfelt thank you and a warm welcome

As we begin a new financial year, I would like to sincerely thank our outgoing President Abdul Jarrah, for his outstanding leadership, dedication and service to RAILS over the past five years.

Abdul has provided unwavering guidance through periods of significant growth, challenge and change, always championing our mission to deliver access to justice for refugees, people seeking asylum and migrants in vulnerable situations.

On behalf of the management committee, staff, and the communities we serve, thank you Abdul for your lasting contribution. We are also delighted to welcome Gayan Mendis as our new Acting President and look forward to working with him as we continue to strengthen RAILS and build an even brighter future together.



Abdul Jarrah



Gayan Mendis



A future filled with hope

When Odesa* came to RAILS, she was determined to build a safer future.

After nine years with her partner, she made the courageous decision to leave an abusive relationship and start again. At the same time, she was encountering serious health issues,

navigating financial hardship, and facing uncertainty about her immigration status.

Despite these challenges, Odesa did not give up. She reached out for help and sought advice about her rights and her future in Australia.

RAILS provided specialist legal advice and support, helping Odesa understand her options and move forward with confidence.

Recently, we were delighted to share life-changing news: Odesa's permanent partner visa had been granted.

For Odesa, this means security, certainty, and the opportunity to rebuild her life.

Thanks to supporters like you, people facing complex legal challenges can access the expert help they need to create brighter futures for themselves and their communities.

**Name changed to protect privacy.*



Turn your empties into
access to justice



RAILS is now registered with **Containers for Change Queensland**, meaning every eligible drink container you return can help fund legal support for refugees and people seeking asylum. Every container returned generates 10 cents for RAILS, at no extra cost to you.

Donate your eligible containers using RAILS' member number **C11774060**, or search for "RAILS" at participating refund points. Download the **Containers for Change Qld app**, it's easier.

Could your workplace, school, sporting club or community organisation make a difference? To make things convenient, once you have 100 or more containers, you can arrange a free home collection.

Together, we can turn everyday recycling into access to justice.

Learn more about [Containers for Change QLD](#) and start collecting today.





Flavours of Hope

Together we made a difference

Thank you to everyone who donated, volunteered and joined us for our inaugural Flavours of Hope lunch. Special thanks to our generous sponsors, Do-Op Shop, Griffith University Law School and Immigrant Women's Support Service, whose support helped make such a memorable day possible.

Together, we raised just over \$30,000 to help RAILS continue providing expert, trauma-informed legal services that recognise each person's unique story and support refugees, people seeking asylum and migrants with patience, respect and understanding.

Sharing good food and stories with people who care reminded us that there is a better us in all of us. When we come together, we change lives and leave inspired, because doing good is good for all of us. Thank you for making a difference. We look forward to building on this in 2027, and if you couldn't join us this year, we'd love to welcome you next year.



What's fact and what's
misunderstood about

migration in Australia

Australia's migration and multicultural discussions are often shaped by headlines and opinion, which can make it hard to know what is accurate. The following six common statements are frequently raised in public debate. We contrast them with a simple, evidence-based summary of what research in Australia actually shows.

[Read the Facts](#)



A fresh look for a better client experience

You may have noticed something a little different about our newsletter. RAILS has a new look.

Our refreshed brand reflects our commitment to making it easier for refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants to get the help they need during some of the most stressful and uncertain times in their lives.

As we look to the future, we're exploring new digital tools that will help people find information, answer their questions and connect with legal support more easily. This includes plans for a more intuitive online experience, making it simpler

for people to access help when they need it. Our new brand represents this commitment to continually improving the way we serve our community.

Our new logo features a bird taking flight, symbolising the journey from uncertainty to safety, opportunity and hope. It reflects both our expertise and our heart.



Music, dancing & community, how a bush dance raised funds for RAILS

A huge thank you to David De Santi and the team at Good Tunes for hosting a charity Bush Dance for RAILS! It was a wonderful evening of live music, dancing and community spirit, and a reminder that something you love can make a real difference. David has been bringing people together through folk music for more than 40 years, and his monthly Good Times Community Bush Dance is proof that the simplest ideas can have the biggest impact. Feeling inspired? Discover what motivated David to give

back and learn his top tips for fundraising success while doing something you love.

[Read David's Story](#)



Have you considered leaving a charitable gift in your Will?

By including a gift to RAILS in your Will, you can help support our work well into the future. You can choose to leave a percentage of your estate, what remains after taking care of loved ones, or a specific amount. Even a small gift can make a real difference to the people and communities we serve. We recommend seeking independent legal advice when updating your Will.

To learn more or request suggested wording, contact our Philanthropy Coordinator at: events@rails.org.au





Volunteer Spotlight: Abigail

"I wanted to volunteer at RAILS because I believe everyone deserves access to justice."

That belief led Abigail to RAILS, where she now serves as a Fundraising Project Support Volunteer, helping organise events like the recent Flavours of Hope, with more to come.

"Starting somewhere new is always a little daunting, but everyone at RAILS has been incredibly welcoming. Seeing the passion and commitment of the team has been inspiring."

Along the way, Abigail has seen firsthand what community legal support really means.

"RAILS helps people navigate complex legal issues with dignity and confidence, particularly those who may otherwise face barriers to accessing justice."

Thank you, Abigail, for showing up, and for believing justice should be for everyone.

[Join Our Volunteer Team](#)



The difference your support makes

"I couldn't have navigated the process without the support of RAILS. Everyone was so helpful, informative and kind. I am deeply grateful for the advice and guidance I received."

RAILS client



Events

Checkout upcoming events and register

Contact

Get in touch and support our work

Major Gift

If you are interested in making a major gift, please contact [Mal](#) for a confidential discussion.

Enjoying this newsletter?

If a friend shared this with you, we'd love to stay in touch. Subscribe to receive our bi-monthly newsletter with client stories, legal and policy updates, community news, and opportunities to support our work. We promise to respect your inbox and share only occasional and meaningful updates. You can unsubscribe at any time.

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Refugee and Immigration Legal Service pay our deepest respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional custodians of the land in Australia, and recognises their continuing connection to land, water and culture.

We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge the stories, traditions and living cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and commit to fostering a culture of learning from and working with First Nations peoples in the spirit of reconciliation and access to justice.

Thank you for being part of the RAILS community. You are receiving this email because you have supported, engaged with, volunteered for, attended an event with, or subscribed to updates from RAILS. You may unsubscribe at any time.

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