

FOREWORD

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Patron of RACS

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I am proud to write this message to honour and praise the staff, volunteers, students and other people who have provided, or used, the services of RACS throughout the past 35 years. RACS has an outstanding record of humanitarian assistance, defence of for universal human rights, professionalism and institutional kindness. I hope that this booklet, which will tell some of the stories of these heroes, will become better known to the Australian community. Truly, RACS is an example of service beyond self; as well as dedication and example for the whole Australian community.

In the past year more needs have arisen, in Afghanistan and now in Ukraine, that have attracted special support and assistance from the Australian Government. Through the Human Rights Institute of the IBA, I have been closely involved in the problem of rescue and relief for victims fleeing the restoration of Taliban rule in Afghanistan. Now, unexpectedly, huge numbers of refugees have been crossing borders in Europe to escape the conflict in Ukraine. Where asylum seekers from countries, in the past, found the door slammed shut, including in Australia, now the door has been opened, or is at least ajar. Earlier arrivals from other equally deserving places have not received the same recognition and support.

I am especially glad that RACS, in collaboration with the St Kilda Legal Service, is producing a Best Practice Guide for another vulnerable group, persons who identify as LGBTIQA+. Every year new and unexpected developments extend the demands that RACS is called upon to meet. It does so with generosity of spirit and with hard work.

For the advocacy and practical wisdom and action of RACS I express grateful thanks and praise. For its outstanding work over 35 years, I extend this message of admiration.



MICHAEL KIRBY,
PATRON OF RACS