



NCOSS

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The Refugee Council and Advocacy
Margaret Piper, Refugee Council of Australia

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Council of Social Service of NSW (NCOSS)
ph: 02 9211 2599 f: 02 9281 1968 e: info@ncoss.org.au
w: www.ncoss.org.au m: 66 Albion St, Surry Hills NSW 2010, Australia

The presentation will begin by giving some background information about the Refugee Council of Australia – explaining its responsibilities as a peak agency and the core areas of activity, one of which is advocacy. In this, the distinction between advocacy and activism will be explored and the Council's position outlined.

There will then be an exploration of some of the key lessons the Council has learnt in relation to the importance of:

- having a clear objective;
- backing this up with good quality research;
- knowing who to target;
- knowing when to engage in a specific advocacy activity;
- choosing a style that is most likely to be effective;
- following up on work undertaken.

In each of the above, refugee specific examples will be given to explain the points being made.

The presentation will conclude with a description of the Refugee Council's "Advocacy Kit" which has been developed to assist community advocates to:

- target their activities more effectively;
- understand the pitfalls of some refugee advocacy initiatives;
- ensure that refugees and asylum seekers are not endangered by their activities;
- avoid vicarious tramatisation;
- link in with support networks;
- understand who is doing what in the sector; and
- know where they can go to get advice and assistance.

REFUGEE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

37-47 ST JOHNS RD, GLEBE, NSW, 2037

PO BOX 946, GLEBE, NSW, 2037

TELEPHONE: (02) 9660 5300 • FAX: (02) 9660 5211
info@refugeecouncil.org.au • www.refugeecouncil.org.au