

12. REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

Officer responsible Property Manager	Author Rob Dally, Property Manager, DDI 371-1500
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The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of discussions the Housing Working Party has had with Refugee and Migrant Service (RMS).

BACKGROUND

Refugee and Migrant Service operates in the main centres, including Christchurch, and is funded through a mix of contributors, including Government (New Zealand Immigration Service), The Community Trust and other agencies.

RMS has two full-time staff and runs resettlement training courses for volunteers (five courses per year) with NZQA accreditation currently being sought.

RMS has been operating for some ten years, with refugee resettlement numbers growing to something like 120 quota refugees per year, usually in four batches. They also deal separately with on-going family reunification cases. Refugees are housed in a mix of Housing New Zealand, Council and private sector rental accommodation.

CURRENT SITUATION

Prior to the Tampa/Christmas Island crisis, the Housing Working Part had been discussing the emergency accommodation needs of RMS, with a view to Council involvement in some sort of partnership through the provision of a four-bedroom house at a concessional rent.

Whilst the parties are not close to coming to any arrangement, it is important to note the current discussions; these will continue. At the same time, the Housing Team Leader is setting up an officer project team to review future accommodation options for the ex-Tampa refugees, 50 of whom are likely to be resettled in Christchurch

- Recommendation:**
1. That the information be received.
 2. That the Property Manager continue to liaise closely with RMS.

Chairman's Recommendation: Not seen by Chairman.