

Many would be familiar with the work of the Hotham Mission Asylum Seeker Project providing housing and support for asylum seekers. Sr Stancea Vichie MSS used to work with them for some years.

Below is the letter from Caz Coleman, Director of the Hotham Mission Asylum Seeker Project, with her contact details.

"The Hotham Mission Asylum Seeker Project has outgrown its office space provided by Hotham Mission (a small two bedroom flat), and there is no other property owned by Hotham Mission that can host our growing staff. Unfortunately, as we do not receive core funding and rely on community donations to operate, we are not in a position to be able to afford, or commit to, a longer term commercial office rental agreement. As such we are seeking a low cost or no cost option to host us to do our important work with asylum seekers.

"We are a team of ten staff and are largely an appointment based service where asylum seekers come to us for casework advice and emergency relief support. We could be looking to remain as close to the city as possible as our clients do not own cars and a number of other asylum agencies are congregated in the North Melbourne area. We would need approximately 200 square meters at a minimum to be able to operate effectively and whilst I realise the size of our agency could be problematic in finding a suitable location we may be in a position into the future to contribute further to rental or lease costs.

"It seems unfortunate that just at the time that we are contributing significantly to policy changes at a national level and researching key human rights issues for asylum seekers that we find ourselves without an effective space to work in. If you can at all assist us with possibilities or ideas we would be most delighted to speak with you.

Kind regards,
Caz Coleman
Project Director
Hotham Mission Asylum Seeker Project"
0411 876 226
Director.asp@hothammission.org.au