

DASSAN 2012

Dear friends,

2011 was a year of great achievements for DASSAN in the midst of ongoing attacks on the human rights of asylum seekers.

Before we begin our work in 2012, we wanted to let you know about some of those achievements. Together we grew from a small public meeting to a group of more than 350 people who work in many different areas.

We ran public events reaching 100s of people (movies, rallys, concerts - including Families for Families outside the DAL), had stalls and provided information, coordinated letter writing to people in detention, coordinated pro bono legal support to people in detention, wrote submissions to national inquires and gave evidence to the Senate Committee, the HR Commissioner and the Ombudsman, met with local politicians , advocated for many individuals in detention, and coordinated a community visitor program to all three detention centres, including training and supporting people visiting those in detention.

"please tell all the people who visit someone how much importance this is. When i knew someone was coming every week and we could talk about anything, or just sit together, and i could be with someone from outside, it made my long days more bearable. You do not know how much it means to us" (asylum seeker in detention)

" What is happening in Australia is wrong and DASSAN is a way of standing up for peoples rights. Thank you for giving me a way to take action" (DASSAN member)

"my heartfelt thanks to everyone in DASSAN for all the work you have done this year. Your lobbying has help changed many aspects of how we deal with asylum seekers. And certainly assisted in making their transition to life in this country a little easier" (Senator Trish Crossin)

Most importantly, we wanted to say thank you. DASSAN is a volunteer network and none of this could have happened without all of you. Thank you for caring so deeply about human rights , and thank you for taking action.

Please help us plan 2012 by filling out the brief survey below and returning it to dassan2011@gmail.com

Cheers - and here's to a new year of peace and justice

(the weekly DASSAN updates will start again this Friday)

Justine
Dassan.org

DASSAN- 2012

In 2012 the priorities for DASSAN should be :

DASSAN could increase its effectiveness by:

In 2012 I would like to be involved in DASSAN by: (please let us know as much as you can!)

- visiting people in detention**
- writing letters to people in detention**
- organising public events**
- organising fundraisers**
- media work**
- social networking**
- information distribution**
- fundraising**
- donating money**
- coordinating work**
- advocacy**
- other ideas!!**