

# Evaluation Report: Transforming the Migration System Grant Round

## **Trippl**

A 100% impact private investment company seeking to use capital as a force for good through a combination of investments and grantmaking.



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## Contents

Summary	3
Objectives	4
What We Wanted Learn	4
Key Findings	5
Deeper Evaluation on Community Consultant Engagement & Effectiveness	6
Organisations Tripple Funded	7
Wish List	7



## Summary

This report presents an evaluation of our recent deep dive, “Transforming the Migration System,” which aimed to fund organisations making significant strides in the migration and refugee sector in Australia.

Australia’s migration system is complex and multifaceted, reflecting a myriad of factors and influences. It’s crucial to acknowledge that the existing migration system has been significantly shaped by the ideology of white supremacy, deeply embedded in the historical context of racism and colonialism. Therefore, it’s clear that achieving justice for migrant communities is impossible to achieve in the absence of racial justice.

Moreover, the escalating global crisis of forced migration, exacerbated by climate change, food shortages, and conflicts, represents one of the most urgent and intersectional challenges of our time. Climate migration alone is expected to surge over the coming decades with forecasts from international think tank, the [Institute for Economics and Peace](#), predicting 1.2 billion people could be displaced globally by 2050 due to climate change and natural disasters. This reality underscores the urgency and importance of this deep dive.

The organisations we sought to fund are those fighting for thriving migrant and refugee communities and striving for a reset of the migration system to address systemic racism and improve conditions for these communities.

In the broader context of global philanthropy, our initiative aligns with the growing trend towards strategic giving, where philanthropic efforts are not just about providing funds but also about creating systemic change. Our approach involved a deep dive into understanding the sector, identifying key players, scoping the potential for funding systems change initiatives, engaging with community consultants and determining the type of capital needs that maximises impact and fits our funding ability.

The process was a learning journey, revealing both successes and areas for improvement. We discovered incredible organisations to fund, gained valuable insights about the sector, and identified gaps in our approach. Moving forward, these learnings will inform our strategies, ensuring that our philanthropic efforts are not only impactful but also contribute to a broader shift towards a more inclusive and equitable society.



## Objectives

Our primary goal was to fund organisations that are making a significant impact in the migration and refugee sector, with a focus on long-term systemic improvements. We aimed to increase our understanding of the key issues and opportunities for refugee and migrant populations and how to address them. Our team, many of whom have direct or indirect experience as refugees or migrants, were driven to help these communities engage with opportunities that set them up for success.

Additionally, one of our key objectives was to engage more deeply with community consultants to increase the effectiveness and accessibility of our grant round.

## What We Wanted to Learn

- The key players in the sector and the quality and alignment of their work.
- The state of the movement, including its infrastructure, momentum, and energy.
- The potential for funding systems change initiatives/organisations.
- The type of capital needs that would fit our funding ability to maximise impact.
- How we can use our learnings to influence strategic giving more broadly.
- How we can integrate our learnings into our investment strategy, specifically elevating migrant/refugee voices as part of inclusive investing.
- The biggest barriers and opportunities for migrants/refugees to shift power and influence the system.



## Key Findings

**Scarcity of Systems Change Funding:** The rarity of funding for systems change within this sector was highlighted by many applicants who reported this as their first encounter with such funding for interventions in Australia's migration system. The high volume of quality applications underscores the pressing need for funding in this sector.

**Effectiveness of Working with Community Consultants:** Our engagement with community consultants (subject matter experts with lived experience of the communities we are aiming to serve) provided us with invaluable insights into the migration and refugee sector. Their expertise and perspectives enriched our understanding of the sector and informed our decision-making process. We learnt that their involvement could help us uncover smaller, impactful organisations and add a layer of transparency and inclusivity to our process.

**Transparency around our philanthropic processes and decision-making:** We received positive feedback from organisations for the transparency of our processes and decision making. Aspects such as clarity on potential funding size, knowledge of the number of shortlisted organisations, and timeline of outcomes were particularly appreciated. Organisations also highly valued meeting the Tripple team instead of needing to submit an application form.

**Selection Process Challenges:** The task of narrowing down potential organisations to fund proved challenging, reflecting the high calibre of work within the sector and underscoring the need for increased funding.

**Concerns About Sustainability of Funding Model:** Questions arose about the sustainability of our current funding model, particularly the impact of giving once and then cutting support. This finding suggests a need to explore alternative funding models that could provide more sustained support to organisations.

**Learning and Capacity Building:** The process served as a significant learning journey for our team, suggesting that such initiatives could also serve as a form of issue area and sector awareness training for team members. The learnings included awareness of the scale and depth of challenges faced by refugee/migrant populations, some cultural capability / awareness and an awareness of how many organisations want to do deep, transformative work on the migration system.

These key findings provide valuable insights that will inform our future strategies and efforts in the migration and refugee sector, and in our broader philanthropic work.



## Deeper Evaluation on Community Consultant Engagement and Effectiveness

### **What Went Well**

The engagement of community consultants was successful in several ways. They were instrumental in designing the grant round, reviewing the shortlist, and making recommendations for funding. Their input helped us identify organisations where we could be truly catalytic, enhancing the impact of our funding. The team appreciated their involvement and the unique insights they brought to the table.

### **What We Could Do Better**

Despite the successes, there were areas for improvement. Feedback from the team and the consultants themselves indicated a desire for more engagement. While this would require a higher investment of funds and team capacity, the added value of their insights suggests that it would be a worthwhile investment.

### **Global participatory grantmaking context and comparison**

Participatory grantmaking is a global trend that's transforming the way we approach giving. It's about bringing those most affected by the issues we're addressing into the heart of decision-making. This approach is gaining momentum because it shifts power, democratises philanthropy, enhances transparency, and ensures that grants are more responsive to community needs.

In the 'Transforming the Migration' deep dive, we started to dabble in this approach by engaging with community consultants. We involved community consultants at various stages of the grant round, from designing the grant to reviewing the shortlist and making funding recommendations. Their involvement was instrumental in shaping our understanding of the sector and ensuring our grants were effectively targeted at and accessible to, the communities we were aiming to serve.

However, we recognise there's room for growth. We could have integrated the community consultants more consistently throughout the process, particularly with a greater role in the final decision-making.

It's worth noting that not many philanthropic organisations in Australia are working in this way. While participatory philanthropy is gaining traction globally, it is still relatively new in the Australian context. While we're excited by the strides we've made, we also see potential to elevate our work to better align with global best practices.

## Organisations Tripple funded

With permission, we are sharing the organisations we funded as a result of this initiative, as well as some of the incredible organisations we loved but didn't have capacity to fund. If you would like an introduction, please reach out to us at [tracey@tripple.com.au](mailto:tracey@tripple.com.au)

Name	Description
<b>National Refugee-led Advisory and Advocacy Group (NRAAG)</b>	<p>NRAAG is an Australian refugee led entity that aims to create spaces, platforms and strong voices led by former refugees, people from refugee-like backgrounds and people seeking asylum in key decision making, public and media discourse about refugees.</p> <p>We're the only national refugee-led advocacy organisation working to create practical and strategic opportunities for meaningful inclusion of lived experience and leadership in shaping Australia's policies and public narrative of refugees. The guiding principle deeply entrenched in all of NRAAG's work is the belief that given the opportunity and the right resources, those with first-hand experience of an issue are often best placed to devise the most effective and efficient solutions.</p> <p>NRAAG's work expands across the refugee rights sector including advocacy and service delivery organisations, academia, government agencies and the refugee communities in Australia. Our lived experience and deep knowledge of the day-to-day challenges refugee communities face enables us to advise the government and the sector to help create the most impactful solutions for refugees and people seeking asylum. Our strategic presence in these forums ensures that lived experience has an important role in shaping policy, discourse and decision making, whether that is across civil society or the government.</p>
<b>Human Rights Law Centre</b>	<p>We believe that the conditions for exploitation of migrant workers are built into our migration system, with strict visa conditions and lack of visa security preventing temporary migrants from upholding their rights at work. Building directly on our relationships with temporary migrant organisers and officials at the United Workers Union (UWU) and Migrant Workers Centre (MWC), we have developed an Australia-first proposal for 'whistle-blower protections' for migrant workers who take action against their employers for breach of workplace laws.</p> <p>These reforms are critical at this time, as temporary migrants are set to return to Australia in record numbers. We have a critical window for reform over the next six months, with the Labor government committing to reforms to protect migrant workers.</p> <p>Funding enables us to work with partners at UWU and the MWC to deepen the proposal with real-life examples of its impact on migrant workers; support it with comparative international research and champion it to decision-makers in federal parliament. We have a critical opportunity not just to achieve legal change, but to fundamentally transform the public narrative about temporary workers and their rights in Australia.</p>

<p><b>Economic Media Centre</b></p>	<p>The Economic Media Centre ensures that people directly affected by issues are front and centre in public discourse and policy development. We build the capacity of community and grassroots organisations and spokespeople to participate in mainstream media debates and build public support for more inclusive policies by shifting narratives.</p> <p>For decades, politicians and media have consistently stigmatised and ‘othered’ migrants and refugees, creating a racist and false narrative about the impact of migration, whilst continuing to reap the benefits of migrant labour to underpin the Australian economy. To date, this framing has continued uncontested without a unified media campaign to shift the narrative and advocate for systemic reform.</p> <p>Funding enables the EMC to scale our current migration justice work, strengthening the Migration Justice Spokesperson Network, by providing dedicated media training and strategy to spokespeople and campaigns so that their voices and solutions are at the forefront in public debate. We’ll deliver a long-term media campaign to shift the narrative on migration in this country and deliver more inclusive policies for migrants and all Australians.</p>
<p><b>Democracy in Colour</b></p>	<p>Democracy in Colour’s <i>Migration with Dignity</i> campaign aims to call out the many injustices that remain in our migration system and highlight the ways that these exacerbate the prejudices that persist in our society today, highlighting racist policies in the migration system.</p> <p>We have been building a movement of supporters and action takers who can leverage their collective power to ensure that the systemic and cultural exploitation and discrimination against migrants is identified and stopped throughout the migration system. We do this through community organising, being led by the people of colour that are on temporary visas in our movement. Members receive training and support to organise in their local groups and participate in strategy for the campaign, to share their stories to the media and meet with decision makers.</p> <p>The main focus is to campaign on pathways to permanency, removing the health cost threshold, improve work conditions and access to social services.</p>

## Wish List

Organisations we wish would could fund if we had additional capacity:

- Queensland Community Alliance
- The Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law at UNSW Sydney
- Sydney Community Forum Ltd & Oz International Student Hub (OISH)
- Sydney Alliance
- The Centre of Multicultural Political Engagement, Literacy, and Leadership (COMPELL)
- Darfur Community
- Citizen Tasmania