

## Armidale Sanctuary

### President's Report – May 2023

#### Projects and activities:

##### Recognition of the Ezidi language:

Upon our request, the NAATI Board reconsidered our submission for the recognition of the Ezidi language, but unfortunately again rejected it. Salam Qaro and I are continuing to make representations to the Department of Home Affairs and Multicultural NSW. We are also awaiting the results of our application to have the language recognised by the International Organisation for Standardization. (For this application we have called the language Shingali, based on the name of the place of origin of the Ezidis in Australia)

##### News:

Tim Gray (Settlement Services International, SSI) is on paternity leave. Monica Jebet is filling in for him as Team Leader.

There were no new arrivals in April, but so far in May, 2 new families have arrived (one with 11 individuals, and one with 8). Another 3 families (with 4, 5, and 7 individuals) are due to arrive later this month. A total of 22 Ezidi families (122 individuals) have settled in Armidale since November.

##### Meetings attended:

**STARTTS** (NSW Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors), 20 April, with Astrid Knirsch, Salam Qaro and Rukia Kakie Modi

- STARTTS has new premises (Owlscot, on the corner of Barney and Markham Streets) with plenty of space for meeting rooms and for a veggie garden out back.
- A member of the Ezidi community, Arjwan Hasan, has recently been appointed for a women's health program "Health in Any Language".
- STARTTS now runs 8 volleyball teams for Ezidis. One of them won the regional comp in Coffs Harbour. Some new arrivals are participating.
- Groups being run by STARTTS (in association with Mosaic): Men's group (meets on Wednesdays); Women's Group (Tuesdays); two Youth groups, one for 16-18 year olds and one 18-24 (Fridays)
- 50 Ezidi youth from Armidale met up with 50 refugee youth from Coffs Harbour at the Dorrigo National Park picnic area. There was lots of dancing – both African and Ezidi.
- The Sydney School of Entrepreneurship ran a training course at Nova on money management and self-employment; 29 Ezidis attended and got certificates.
- There are some problems with certain real estate agents not accepting Ezidi clients.
- Some Ezidis are travelling back to Iraq in order to get compensation payments offered by the government to women who were captured by Isis.

**REP** (Multicultural NSW's Regional Engagement Program), online on 4 May.

This program aims to inform people about developments related to multiculturalism in NSW, to get feedback from those involved and to make representations to the government. For more information and to sign up: <https://multicultural.nsw.gov.au/regional-engagement-program/>.

Again, many thanks to all Sanctuary members for your involvement and support.

Jeff Siegel  
President