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Dear Members,

I welcome all of you to our first Annual General Meeting and thank you all for joining the Australian Tamil Congress (ATC) and giving your support in making it truly a national democratic organisation for Australian Tamils, a fete achieved for the first time in Australia.

We have only recently gone through a great trauma in our homeland loosing so many lives of our brothers and sisters and leaving hundreds of thousands maimed, homeless and powerless. While our desire is to try to help them to relieve their pain and suffering urgently, it is our responsibility to bring immediate peace, freedom of movement, normalised living conditions, economic empowerment and self-determination achieved through short, mid and long term planning and actions. This needs to be achieved through making friends in the international community through political dialogue, diplomacy and most of all, unity among ourselves around the world. To reach our goals, we need a structured approach through organisations such as ATC in Australia, the British Tamil Forum (BTF) and the Canadian Tamil Congress (CTC), just to name a few. These are the aims and objectives of ATC and your continuous unwavering support is paramount in making this a successful journey.

The recent referendum on the Vaddukoddai Resolution (VKR) tells us what the Diaspora’s aspirations are and ATC has been proactively involved in developing a structured approach through a blueprint to help achieve our goals step by step. To get there we need to be united and there is nothing on this earth that can be achieved without funds. Talk is cheap. I do realise that it is easier to get financial support from our community to carry out humanitarian projects to help our injured, elderly and most of all children and those who have lost the breadwinners in their families. Sending money to Sri Lanka will just keep propping up the government of Sri Lanka. What we must do is to keep up pressure on the Government of Sri Lanka in order to make them to respect the rights of every citizen. Requests from the governments of United Kingdom, European Union, the United States of America and Canada are noteworthy and we welcome their efforts. To achieve something substantial, we must bring in India and China to a certain extent. We must also work with the Tamil and Muslim elected representatives in Sri Lanka and foster a strong relationship with our brethren in Tamil Nadu.
Our prime objective as members of ATC is to contribute to these international efforts through the lobbying of parliamentarians and raising the political awareness of the media and the public in general and simultaneously working with organisations such as the Global Tamil Forum (GTF). To this end we have achieved a lot during the past months following our official launch in August 2009. We have opened many doors we could not before. Many Australian parliamentarians know who we are and we have made tremendous inroads into the Australian media, as you would have seen quite a few good newspaper articles, radio and television programmes, supporting the Tamil cause and highlighting the injustices done to our brethren so openly with the tacit support of the international community.

These achievements did come at a cost. This was greatly achieved through the assistance of Public Relations professionals in Australia, a first for the Tamil community globally, and a lot of sweat and sacrifices from our members. This public relations venture cost us money but what this has brought us is immeasurable. I am so grateful to our community for being so generous by contributing more than half of the cost through a special fund and making this a reality. We set the scene and having seen our success, other organisations around the globe are taking a similar approach in a big way globally through the GTF.

Dear members, today you must all be so proud that you are taking part in this important occasion to hold our very first Annual General Meeting with nearly 1,500 proud members being part of our crusade and it is our dream that this number will increase to over 3,000 by the time we have our next AGM. The power to achieve anything politically and diplomatically lies with the number of members we can command and the financial support that brings with it. We have six chapters in Australia and we must endeavour to bring in Northern Territory and Tasmania.

Let us all drop our differences and work together to bring peace, dignity, freedom and the right to self-determination for our people in the island of Sri Lanka. They have suffered enough and should suffer no more and it is in our hands to deliver what they so desperately crave for.

Dr. R. T. Rajeswaran,
Chairman.
To:- The President and members of the Australian Tamil Congress

My dear friends of the ATC,

I have pleasure in greeting you all when you are about to complete only the first year of your existence but filled with lots of activities, both within and without Australia, both at your country level and in conjunction with the Global Tamil Forum.

We of the GTF are happy about your active participation in our teleconferences as well as in our preparatory meeting in Paris and at the Inaugural Conference in London in February 2010. Your engagement with the national media as well as with the politicians on issues concerning the plight of our people in Tamil Eelam as well as of those caught in mid seas near Australia have been very encouraging for all of us in the GTF.

It has been more than a year since the war against the Tamils and their leadership was officially declared to be over. But the unfolding of events in Sri Lanka, demand that we of the Diaspora continue to vigilantly watch how the Sri Lankan Government is treating the victims of war. Instead of doing their home-work of rehabilitating the victims, the Government is engaged in state-aided colonisation and militarisation of the North. In addition they want to wage a war against the Tamil Diaspora, labelling them as terrorist-supporters. Besides operating check-points to filter suspects of terrorism in the Tamil homeland, the government is sending army officers and stooges of the government to operate their embassies too as "check-points" for Tamils. Hence we have to courageously fight against the false propaganda of the government against the Tamil Diaspora.

We of the Diaspora want to live and work as loyal citizens of our adopted countries. Your organising blood-donation campaign in Australia is an eloquent sign of our love for the country. At the same time help our efforts to help the victims of war or question the criminals of war should not be labelled as terrorism.

I wish you all grow in strength and help the just cause of our people.

Yours Sincerely,

Father S.J. Emmanuel
President - Global Tamil Forum
1 June 2010

Dear Members of Australian Tamil Congress,

I would like to wish the Australian Tamil Congress well at its first Annual General Meeting. In my work I have met many members of the Tamil community both here in South Australia and across the country.

Sadly, I have met many members of the community in detention centres, including Tamil refugees who have made the dangerous journey to Australia to escape persecution and violence in their homeland.

As a human rights activist I was already aware of the suffering of refugees before I entered Parliament. As the Australian Greens’ spokesperson for immigration and human rights, I have learned more but my attendance at the Remembrance Day event on May 22, 2010, has brought into sharper focus for me the particular suffering of the Tamil population in Sri Lanka.

I have raised these issues in Federal Parliament and both I and the other Green Senators will continue to push the Federal Government to do more to raise human rights concerns with the Sri Lankan Government.

We will also continue to fight for a more compassionate, humane process for those seeking asylum in Australia.

I believe that the Australian Tamil Congress is playing an important role in advancing the cause of Tamils in Sri Lanka.

Warm regards

Senator Sarah Hanson-Young
To Whom it May Concern

I want to congratulate the Australian Tamil Congress on their efforts to work for a peaceful future for Sri Lanka. There has been so much suffering and loss, and the real hope must be for a peaceful future, where there is respect and security.

Senator Claire Moore
Senator for Queensland
Message from Senator Mark Furner

Thank you for the opportunity to say a few words in your first annual report. I have been involved with the Australian Tamil Congress Queensland Chapter since its launch in August 2009. Since then I have been privileged to be welcomed by the organisation and have been honoured to raise the plight of Sri Lankan nationals in the Australian Senate.

Since becoming involved with the organisation I have followed with interest the events unfolding in Sri Lanka.

I congratulate the Australian Tamil Congress Queensland Chapter on reaching this important milestone and wish the organisation success in all future endeavours.

MARK FURNER
SENIATOR FOR QUEENSLAND
To Australian Tamil Congress,

I wish to extend to the Tamil community congratulations on the first anniversary of the establishment of the Australian Tamil Congress.

Those organisations, formed out of the desire to end conflict, will ensure the better understanding of cultural and historical aspects of different communities, and are valued in the modern Australia.

I have spoken in Parliament on both the conflict involving the Tamil people, and celebrated what will hopefully be a peaceful co-existence for all people in Sri Lanka.

I have many Sri Lankan-born people in my electorate of Tangney, and they play a beneficial role in business and community life.

I am sure that the goodwill and desire for peace will prevail and I am sure that your organisation will play a leading role for many years to come.

Kind Regards,

Dr Dennis Jensen MP
Federal Member for Tangney
Introduction

Australian Tamil Congress was formed as an Organisation to represent Australian Tamil constituency based on membership and to achieve its goal through political, diplomatic and democratic principles. To strengthen our approach and to move towards our goal, ATC has become part of Global Tamil Forum formed by Tamil Diaspora with country Organisations.

ATC consists of the following classes of membership:

(a) **Sponsor Members**: Those who have contributed a minimum amount per year designated as the membership fee for this category in the by-laws. They shall enjoy complimentary tickets to premium events and special recognition as Sponsor Members.

(b) **Ordinary Members**: Those who have contributed a minimum amount per year designated as the membership fee for this category in the by-laws.

(c) **Associate Members**: This category is for those who possess a pensioner card and those who are full-time students under the age of twenty two (22)

(d) **Life Members**: Those who have contributed a minimum one off amount designated as the membership fee for this category in the by-laws and will enjoy the same benefits accorded to the ordinary members.

(e) **Honorary Members**: Those who are not members of the Tamil community but have made outstanding contributions towards the wellbeing and advancement of the Tamil community satisfying the conditions in the by-laws.

(f) **Founding Members**: Founding members shall be the persons who consent to be the initial members in the application for registration of this Company. The number of Founding Members shall be five.

The structure of Australian Tamil Congress consists of Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Regional and Territory Chapters Management Committee in Australia. Currently Australian Tamil Congress is the country Organisation of Global Tamil Forum, which is formed by Tamil Diaspora with representatives from countries where there is a sizable Tamil population. The current structure allows sharing of resources, ideas and leadership within a country and globally and work united towards our vision, mission and goals.
Vision, Mission and Goals

Vision

The members establish this Constitution for ATC in order to form a congress of our people, for our people and by our people based on the principles of justice and peace amongst ourselves, and to provide for a common voice in promoting our general welfare, prosperity, independence, equality, security and peace.

Mission

ATC encourages the positive participation of Tamils in Australian society, highlights issues of importance to Tamils, upholds core Australian values and engages other communities, governments and Organisations in addressing the socio-cultural and political concerns of Tamils.

Goals

The Goals of ATC are:

(a) Promote the participation of Tamil Australians in activities of local, national, regional and international importance;

(b) Recognise and support the social, cultural and political aspirations of the Tamils in Australia and globally with issues relating to the Tamils living in the island of Sri Lanka being the most significant priority;

(b) Participate actively in the welfare and resettlement of all Tamil refugees granted asylum in Australia;

(c) Develop and improve the profile of Tamils settled in Australia through community education, training, positive involvement in Australian political and financial activities;

(d) Work with various levels of Governments in Australia to highlight and resolve issues impacting Australian Tamils;

(f) Liaise with Tamils worldwide through positive participation within a single, not for profit, politically and democratically focused world Tamil organisation;

(g) Uphold the Australian values of human rights, multiculturalism, religious and cultural diversity, gender equality, pluralism and volunteerism;

(h) Advance the research, study and usage of the Tamil language and culture;

(i) Develop and enhance working relationships with other ethno-cultural and charitable groups in Australia;

(j) Cooperate with Australian and international organisations in alleviating the suffering and provide humanitarian and economic assistance to Tamils worldwide directly and through existing organisations;

(k) Champion for equal rights and equal opportunity for all diverse groups, in particular with regards to gender, religious and cultural equality, by working towards the elimination of all forms of discrimination and intolerance.
The Board is made up of directors elected from each region by their membership, and the Chairman and Vice Chairman are elected by the combined membership of all regional Organisations in Australia. The Secretary and the Treasurer are elected by the Board of Directors and all other Executive Officers are appointed by the Board. The office bearers of the board, three other directors and the appointed executive officers form the Executive Committee.

Regional chapter is formed with membership from each State and Territory and managed by an elected body consisting of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Media officer and committee members. Regional chapter operations are guided by the Board. The following charts illustrate the structure of Australian Tamil Congress
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2009-2010

CHAIRMAN
Dr. Raj T Rajeswaran

SECRETARY
Dr. Kamal G. Nathan

VICE CHAIRMAN
Dr. Mainthan Palendira

REGIONAL CHAPTERS AND ATC BOARD

POLITICAL CO-ORDINATOR
Dr. Mainthan Palendira

TREASURER
Prof. Thas A Nimalathas

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
Dr. Sam Pari

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
Mr. Ranju Seevanayagam

SECRETARY
Dr. Kamal G. Nathan

DIRECTOR
Mr. Thushanthan Mohanaraj

DIRECTOR
Mr. Thushanthan Mohanaraj

DIRECTOR
Mr. Thushanthan Mohanaraj

DIRECTOR
Mr. Thushanthan Mohanaraj

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
Mr. Ranju Seevanayagam

DIRECTOR
Mr. Krish Illungo

DIRECTOR
Mr. Selvadurai Pathmalinkam

Each Regional Chapters will elect one Director to the ATC Board and its own management committee, if there are more than 1,000 members in a chapter then that chapter is entitled to have two directors.
REGIONAL CHAPTER MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

PRESIDENT

VICE PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

TREASURER

MEDIA OFFICER

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

REGIONAL CHAPTER OFFICE BEARERS

CHAPTER | PRESIDENT | VISE PRESIDENT | SECRETARY | TREASURER | MEDIA OFFICER
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
NSW | Mrs Varuni Bala | Mr Dharshan Gunasingam | Mr Mano Manics | Mrs Gowri Nirmalendran | Dr Sam Pari
QLD | Mr Yogi Srikhanta | Mr Chinniah Arunagiri | Mr Raj Sathyavarathan | Mr Jerome Arunkumaren | Mr Appiah Raventhiran
SA | Dr Para Parasuraman | Dr Selvi Sathananthan | Mrs Shankari Wijendra | Mrs Thurga Bragatheswaran | Dr Kmal G Nathan
VIC | Mr Selvadurai Pathmalinkam | Dr Sri Srithar | Mr Paul Rajeswaran | Mr Nishanthan Vivekananthan | Mr Bobby Sundaralingam
WA | Vacant | Mr Kumaran Arulliah | Mr P A Subramaniam | Mr Senthil Kanhasamy | Mr Markandu Panchalingam

ReOganisation of Regional Chapter management committee: Media officer will be replaced by the Officer bearer who will be either elected or appointed by management committee based on need of each chapter.
Chairman’s Report

The time has now come for our first Annual General Meeting. Since the inception of ATC we have been operating under an interim board and interim committees for the regional chapters. This time however, proper regional elections will be held to elect the management committees for all the regional chapters and the regional Directors to form the board of ATC. The election of the Chairman and the Vice Chairman will be held nationally.

The need for a democratically elected national organisation such as ATC was in the minds of many people but because of the ongoing turmoil in our homeland, enough effort was not put into making this a reality. The very first opportunity to propose the urgent need for the creation of such organisations in every country where Tamil people live came in March 2009 at a conference held in London under the apt title of “World Tamil Forum”. The diaspora was asked to present papers identified as important at this conference which was attended by forty five (45) delegates from twenty two (22) countries. I had the privilege of being asked to present a paper titled “Avenues for Constructive Engagement” with the directive to “Present the current engagement with the international community (IC) on humanitarian, human rights and political dialogue. What new political avenues can be established to ensure a ceasefire, discussion of ISGA, UN sponsored Referendum of the Tamil people in Eelam and engage the IC to explore a solution within the Tamil People’s right to self-determination”. The paper stressed for the need for the creation of democratically elected single organisations with paid membership in every country where Tamils have taken refuge followed by these organisations getting together to form a world body similar to the United Nations (a Congress of Tamils) with the head office (Secretariat) in London and two regional secretariats with one in Sydney accommodating the Asia-Pacific region and one encompassing the Americas based in New York. This was very well received and supported by the delegates present.

Since that conference of course our world has been turned upside down on the 18th of May 2009. However, we continued with the spirit of that conference and registered ATC as a Propriety Limited Company in Western Australia in April 2009 and officially formed organisation in WA in May 2009 with eighty (80) paid members. The concept of ATC, a democratic political organisation with sound financial backing and providing a Unified Voice for all Tamils in Australia was presented at a meeting in Sydney on the 6th of June 2009 with around fifteen new members joining that night. This was followed by presentations in Melbourne, Adelaide and Brisbane. ATC was then re-registered as a Public Company Limited by Guarantee and was inaugurated in August 2009 resulting in new chapters being created in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Queensland. To these five chapters, the Canberra chapter was added in May of this year. After the AGM, every effort will be made in creating new chapters in Tasmania and the Northern Territory.

ATC has now grown to nearly 1,500 members and has been able to achieve a great deal on the political and public relations fronts and has the honour of being selected as the preferred organisation to represent Australia in the Global Tamil Forum (GTF) inaugurated in March 2009 at the Houses of Parliament in London in the presence of parliamentarians from all three major political parties in
the UK. ATC is structured to function efficiently like a private enterprise; however, being dependent on volunteers we have found it difficult to fill all the positions to complete our organisation. The important positions that need to be managed by efficient personnel are; Director of Public Relations, Head of Political Strategies, Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Head of Information System and Services, Head of Administration, Legal Council (LC) and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). We have been fortunate enough to fill the first four positions with persons who are very well qualified to accomplish their tasks most effectively. Once, a very successful colleague of a friend of mine told him “No Organisation will ever be successful if it does not employ at least one person”. It is our wish also to have a head office for ATC in one of the major cities in Australia and a token of paid employees to perform important and repetitive tasks. To achieve this we need to increase our member base and raise additional funds through donations from our members and organising fundraising events. We have been requested by GTF to contribute towards the running of a manned office situated near the Houses of Parliament in London. All these requirements necessitate that fundraising will be one of the major tasks for the newly elected Board of Directors and the Regional Chapter Committees.

The other major task is to build a substantial support base for our cause among the elected representatives to the parliament and senior members of all the political parties in Australia. A lot of work has already been done on this and the opportune time to make a serious push on this will be after the launch of our policy document, a blueprint, on the 2nd of June at the Parliament House in Canberra. This document has been developed over many months with many of our fine brains working on it with advice from independent public relations professionals and legal minds.

In conclusion, it must be stated that all the functional groups within ATC have performed extremely successfully in making ATC a truly democratic and a very professional organisation thus generating praise and admiration from members of our community, the politicians, the media and other informed citizens of this great country. This is only just the beginning, the road ahead is long and rough and we all must work hard and make sacrifices if we are going to play a constructive and effective role in our pursuit to bring just rights and the right of self-determination to our kith and kin in the island of Sri Lanka and prove to the world and ourselves that unity, conviction and perseverance can shift mountains.
Reports from Secretaries

National Board

Secretary – Dr Kamal G Nathan

Introduction
National Secretary’s report covers brief outline of launching of ATC Australia wide, setting up of interim board, executive committee and organizational activities to strengthen ATC. Other areas of ATC activities will be covered by Reports from Chairman, Treasurer, Political Coordinator and Director of Public Relations. The names of all the interim office bearers are given under a separate section ATC Organizations, elsewhere. Annual Report covers the period from inauguration to 31 March 2010. In this section the first part outlines the National Secretary’s report and the second part consists of contributions from Chapter Secretaries from NSW, QLD, SA, VIC and WA.

ATC Launch Australia Wide
ATC was inaugurated on 15th of August 2009 in NSW, SA, WA, VIC and followed by QLD, the next day. The Public functions were well supported and attended by Tamils in all capital cities and to commemorate the launching a bilingual magazine in English and Tamil was published with contributions from all chapters. The launching took place at the following venues:

- Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church
  7 Grantham Road, Seven Hills, NSW
- Jamboree Heights State School
  35 Beanland St., Jamboree Heights, QLD
- Performing Arts Centre, Linden Park School
  15 Hay Road, Linden Park, SA
- St Judes Community Centre
  51 George Street, Scoresby, VIC
- Illangai Tamil Sangam
  6 Third Avenue, Rossmoyne, WA

ATC was formed as a public limited company with founding directors and registered with ASIC on 20th of August 2009 with constitutional provisions to support regional chapters and a national board made up of directors from each chapter.

First National Meeting
In all 22 members participated in the first National meeting held on the 5th of September 2009 at St Judes Community Centre in Melbourne, which was hosted by Victoria Chapter and presided by Mr S Pathmalinkam. Participants included two directors each from NSW and VIC, and one director each from QLD, SA and WA, newly appointed directors were bestowed power of the board by the founding directors. There after the office bearers Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer were elected from the newly appointed directors and seven directors formed the interim board of ATC until the first Annual General Meeting to be held within 18 months. Executive committee was formed with appointment of Director of Public Relations, Chief Financial officer while other positions were left vacant until suitable appointees are found.

Membership development council, constitution committee and a coordinator for workshops and projects were appointed, but these set up did not work effectively and a different strategy is needed in the future. There after presentations were given on a number of special topics: public relation and media approach (Mr Arjun Ganeshalingam), membership registry (Mr Sathya Sivanesan), financial systems (Mr Selvendran Seevanayagam), deliberations on Global Tamil Forum (Dr Raj Rajeswaran), and national projects from Victoria (Mr J Prakash), New South Wales (Dr Sam Pari) and Queensland (Dr Brian...
Senewiratne). This was followed by a lively discussion among the participants, the minutes of proceedings were recorded by Prof Thas A Nirmalathas and the day activities ended with vote of thanks from Dr Naraan Mohan. On behalf of the participants, the Secretary wishes to acknowledge the great contributions made by Victorian Chapter members and for organising a highly successful meeting.

**ATC Operations**

In all, board of directors and executive committee held nineteen meetings over this period up to 31 March 2010. ATC structure is unique because it works as an association of people and objects, but it is a limited company registered with ASIC. The advantage of this arrangement is ATC can operate Australia wide with the same law applicable in every state. The ATC set up meant, meetings were held via teleconference and personal interactions were lacking, a unique operational methods have been developed, overall it has been very successful and the achievements will be presented by others as part of this annual report.

**Summary of Important Activities:**

Engagement in projects forms an important part of ATC activities which started nationally as well as from chapters. To improve the assessment and approval process of projects, standard forms were prepared for submission to initiate a project and on completion, which is available from the Secretary. Further improvements on monitoring and submissions are needed in the future.

A Political coordinator was appointed So far the focus has been on political lobbying and public relation activities, reports from Director of Public Relation and Political Coordinator appear elsewhere.

Information and communication being the backbone of any modern Organisation and to meet that requirement, Dr Arul Sivanesan was appointed to lead the Information Technology and Communication Department.

Dr Brian Seneviratne who was the first interim director from Queensland stepped down prematurely and was replaced by Mr Krish Illungoo

ATC has been publishing monthly news edited and assisted by Ms Elankumaran Aruliah, Ms Varuni Bala, Mr. Appiah Raveenthiran and Myuran Pathmanathan, at various periods for distribution to members and others.

Ms Sara Nathan worked as a Humanitarian Project Coordinator for a couple of months National Settlement of Refugees and Migrants Projects coordinator position was created and position was defined and Dr Bala Vigneswaran was appointed to that position.
New South Wales Chapter

Secretary – Mr. Mano Manics

Introduction

Australian Tamil Congress (ATC) was launched in NSW on the 15th August 2009. This was at a time a lot of us Tamils felt a sense of hopelessness, rallying on the roads of Sydney and Canberra pleading with the International Community to stop the war and felt devastated when our calls fell on deaf ears. We all felt the same way we need to be powerful and we need a strong political voice! We all felt the time has come for us to get together across the globe and become a democratic force that can directly deal with the issues that are faced by the Tamils in our homeland as a whole.

Working Groups

Since inception ATC members and committee members had worked hard towards achieving its vision and mission. ATC NSW formed forceful working groups with political campaigning, Women’s Advocacy Group, Community projects group and grants group just to name a few. ATC NSW chapter had made inroads with many politicians and policy makers. ATC-NSW Chapter appointed electoral coordinators. They, along with ATC representatives have met several MPs and Senators. We have had very positive responses and follow up appointments have been made. Representatives from ATC NSW chapter also attended several meetings with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

Women’s Advocacy Group was also an initiative of ATC NSW chapter. The group has been successful in taking the plight of women and children suffering in our Tamil Homeland into the public arena. Members of ATC NSW chapter are working closely with experts in the legal and judicial system to help with establishing information on Crimes against Humanity committed by the Sri Lankan State.

ATC-NSW Chapter is spearheading the Grants Team. This working group has successfully applied for a few grants under ATC. It is very encouraging for a young organisation such as ATC to be able to receive these grants and it further confirms that ATC has earned credibility and trust within the wider Australian community and Australian government.

ATC NSW working group members have developed a working relationship with wider community organisations such as STARTTS, refugee support groups, Voluntary Resource Board etc. By using the extended community support groups, ATC in NSW has been able to provide welfare assistance to Tamils detained in Villawood Detention Centre and Christmas Island.
Dear members and Friends with a great deal of pride in our work, we offer this Annual Report for the year ending on March 31, 2010. ATC QLD was launched on 16th of August 2009 by Senator Mark Furner. As we reflect on the success of the past 8 months, we remain excited about all of the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. Please take a few minutes to read this Annual Report in order to learn more about the QLD Chapter and how you may become more involved with us to achieve our vision: Justice and peace as one voice for all Tamils.

**Lobbying Activities**
The Queensland Chapter lobby group headed by the Interim State Director has earned an outstanding reputation for constantly engaging Queensland based Federal Members of Parliament and Senators and Ministers, Party Branches, Unions, Human rights Organisations by providing them with latest and relevant information on Tamil rights issues, IDPs, asylum seekers. Their effort has resulted in better understanding of the issues affecting homeland Tamils among the decision makers.

The lobbying efforts further strengthened by the formation of Parliamentary Group 4 Tamils, Stakeholder and Advocacy Group 4 Tamils of QLD Chapter.

**Participation in Rights Group Activities**
A truly great accomplishment during last eight months has been the expanded contacts with and working in partnership with wider community, human rights NGOs such as Amnesty International, International Commission of Justice, Refugee Action Collective, Socialist Alliance, etc. These organisations have sponsored forums to highlight the human rights violations against Tamils as well as plight of asylum seekers.

**Engagement with New Arrivals** - A number of chapter members are constantly assisting and guiding new arrivals from Christmas Islands and make them feel welcome.

**Special Appreciation** - A special thanks and appreciation is due to Mr Appiah Raveenthiran for his exceptional contribution to the production ATC newsletter and in particular to the Tamil translation of English materials. He has taken a temporary break from his volunteer work for personal reasons. His services will be missed by the Chapter.

**Together, Yes we Can!** - As we report on Chapter progress, we remember that our work is ongoing and that we walk this journey together. We believe that we can together with National ATC, work to conquer the hearts and minds of Australian public and the decision makers, to make them understand issues affecting Tamils both in their former homeland and in Australia.

Thank you for your support of the QLD Chapter. Please join us as we look forward to the future filled with courage and hope. Together, we can make the difference!
South Australia Chapter

Secretary – Ms. Shankari Wijendra

Genesis
South Australian Chapter had a successful launch on 15\textsuperscript{th} of August 2009. The activities started end of May 2009 by the Action Group formed under the auspices of Ceylon Tamil Association, to highlight the suffering and killing of Tamils, has prepared the people and made the task much easier. Action group raised funds over $6,000 for political campaign, which was very useful in carrying out our task without much financial strain on the Chapter. Formation of SA Chapter had a seamless transition from the Action group and consolidated activities by forming three subgroups namely: membership drive, fund raising and promotion of ATC mission. The first management committee was formed at the meeting held on October 4\textsuperscript{th} 2009, all five office bearers were unanimously elected and another ten enthusiastically joined as committee members.

Multicultural Function
Multicultural Extravaganza was organised on 10\textsuperscript{th} of October 2009 with chief guests State Assembly Speaker Jack Snelling MP and Deputy Opposition Leader Ms Vickie Chapman MP. It was a great success for many reasons and made a profit of about $5,000 and the multicultural show created awareness among other communities. Also very inspiring speeches made by both chief guests helped to boost our membership substantially.

Political Activities
The interim committee kept the communication link established by Action group and continued with printing and distribution of fortnightly News Briefs and Monthly News Letter to Community leaders, State and Federal politicians. To fund $6,000 raised earlier for political campaign was handy in organising activities with depending on ATC funds, still some fund is available to continue with political activities.
As part of our political engagement one of the person we met was Mr Nick Champion MP for Wakefield on 2nd of September 2009, who is also the Chairperson of Labour party Caucus committee on National and Border Security. He extended an invitation to ATC to make a presentation to the Caucus committee which was gladly accepted and the ATC political group made a valuable submission on situation in Sri Lanka in November 2009 at Parliament House. Our continuous efforts resulted in Mr Nick Champion, Mr Tony Zappia MP for Makin and Senator Sarah Hanson-Young raising the Tamil issue in the Federal Parliament and Senate respectively.

We have also met with and participated in activities organised by Socialist alliance, Trade union CFMEU and other groups:

- Socialist alliance sent a resolution to the PM similar to Brisbane chapter
- Front page news and other articles pertaining to Tamils on several issues appeared in Green Weekly via Socialist Alliance
- Participation of SA members in the Parliamentary Forum
  - Sue Gilby, Bremen Peace Prize winner, discussed Tamil issue on Adelaide Radio

**Support for Refugees and Migrants**

SA Chapter has been working with other groups who are engaged with refugees in general and in particular at Christmas Island. Our work includes trying to help with collection of used mobile, Tamil books and videos phones for distribution to refugees. The groups are:

- Circle of Friends based in Blackwood, SA
- Migrant and Refugee Research Cluster (MRRC)
- Australian Refugee Association
- Flinders University of SA, STTARS
- Regular liaison with UNHCR with regard to work done in refugee camps.
- ATC and CTA members met DIAC, initiated by them, to meet with refugees to be released from Christmas Island
- Working with new migrants from Sri Lanka, sponsored by SA Government, to find accommodation, finding employment and with networking with Tamil Community of SA.

Members of SA Chapter also participated in other inter state activities organised by ATC and the small Tamil community has made a recognisable impact so far and more to be done in the future to meet our goal.
Victoria Chapter
Secretary – Mr. Paul Rajeswaran

Inauguration
The Victorian Chapter of the Australian Tamil Congress was inaugurated on Saturday, 15 August 2009 as part of the National initiative to provide a unified voice on democratic principles for the Tamil people of Australia. Around 700 people, young and old, participated in this historic inaugural meeting. A briefing of the vision, mission and structure of the ATC was presented to the gathering. A 13 member Interim Committee was introduced to the gathering, with Dr N. Mohan as National Coordinator, Mr S. Pathmalinkam as President, Mr Paul Rajeswaran as Secretary and Mr N Vivekanandan as Treasurer.

Membership Drive
Slowly but steadily 650 people have signed up so far. An ardent effort is being made by a few dedicated people to reach the magic number of 1,000 in the next 2 months. More needs to be done by word of mouth and by educating fellow Tamils of the need of a strong Australian Tamil constituency such as the ATC.

Political Campaigns
A number of projects and campaigns were conducted at creating awareness among the wider Australian community of the dire human rights situation in Sri Lanka.

- Apprised Senator Gavin Marshals (North Melbourne) of the horrific conditions of the internment camps, the formation of ATC and its goals.
- Raised the issue of IDPs with the Opposition Leader Malcolm Turnbull and other MPs at a Liberal Party function.
- Met with left wing Trade Union officials and briefed them on the current status of IDPs, requested support for possible economic sanctions.
- Forum on ‘Peace and Human Rights in Sri Lanka’ in association with a University of Melbourne was organised and well received by the academic community.
- As part of a national project, the ATC Victorian Chapter spearheaded a world wide coordinated letter campaign requesting the Commonwealth Heads of Governments to place Sri Lanka on the Agenda for CHOGM 2009 held in Trinidad and Tobago in November 2009. Our agitation, to some extent, was instrumental in cancelling Sri Lanka as the host nation for the next CHOGM. Tireless efforts by Madhuni and Brami made this possible.
- A forum on ‘Sri Lanka: Human Rights Issues and Media Representation’ was held on 10th November at the Monash University, Caulfield. The event was jointly hosted by Victorian Trades Hall Council, Amnesty International, Human Rights Law Resource Centre, Alfred Deakin Research Institute, Herb Feith Foundation and the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies (University of Sydney).
Moderated by Prof. Chris Nash of the Department of Journalism, Monash University, the forum highlighted the historical root causes of the Tamil conflict, the lack of media freedom and the decades of injustices meted out to the Tamil people. The speakers included Ass. Prof. Rohan Bastin (Deakin University), Ass. Prof. Jake Lynch (University of Sydney), Ass. Prof. Damien Kingsbury (Deakin University), David Manne (Coordinator – Refugee and Immigration Legal Centre, Victoria) and Mr David Feith [Author – Conflict in Sri Lanka (1986) and Tamil Nationalism in Sri Lanka (forthcoming)]. Dr. Bobby Suntharalingam worked tirelessly to make the event a great success.

The National Council of the Maritime Union of Australia passed a resolution on 5th November condemning the persecution of Tamils in Sri Lanka. “People will always try to escape from persecution. While we remain silent on the injustices in Sri Lanka we will continue to have to deal with people who seek refuge from it”, the resolution said. The MUA’s Victorian Branch Secretary Mr Kevin Bracken was instrumental in passing the resolution which added “We call on the Australian Government to withhold investment in Sri Lanka until humanitarian aid is allowed to those areas still under military control and the entrenched persecution of Tamil population ceases”. The VIC political team headed by Mr Adrian Sinnappu played a vital role behind the scene in organising this event.

Political and Media Group members Antony Gratian and Johnny Chrysostom attended the Latin American & Asia Pacific Solidarity Gathering held at the Victorian Trades Hall on 24th October. On behalf of the ATC, Antony briefed the gathering on ‘Human Rights and Civil Liberties in Sri Lanka’. The audience included Aboriginal, Latin American, West Papuan and Japanese activists who heard for the first time the true nature of the Tamil Struggle for equality and justice in Sri Lanka.

ATC Vic. Youth Group was actively involved in the organisation World Human Rights Day events held in the Federation Square on 10 December 2009. The materials and displays at the event highlighted the oppression of Tamils and denial of their political and fundamental rights on this 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

VKR Campaign - Mr Pathmalinkam spoke at a public meeting on 28 February. Mr Antony Gratian and Ms Kanchana Senthooran went on air, 3 CR Radio to express our solidarity with the campaign. Antony participated in the ABC TV program ‘Australia Network News’ broadcast to Southeast Asian Countries and also spoke at the Forum on VKR held on 10/4 at the Monash University.

Two workshops were held in the month of March to keep abreast in the fields of Media and Politics. Media Workshop held on 21/3 conducted by Sampavi. About 12, mostly young people, benefited from this workshop. Political Workshop held on Sunday 27/3 conducted by Political Coordinator to brief ATC political strategy and emphasised the need to be in constant touch with the State & Federal Legislators.
Western Australia Chapter

Secretary – Mr. P.A. Subramaniam

Introduction
The nucleus of ATC WA chapter was formed around the Ilankai Tamil Sangam of WA Inc which was active well before the formal inauguration of the Regional chapters after the incorporation of ATC. In fact the nucleus was formed soon after the proposal for GTF in London in March 2009, where Tamil Diaspora leaders around the world gathered to hear Jesse Jackson. A media Fund was established that financed the activities of the Nucleus and the Perth TYO.

Apart from several rallies, the key event was a photographic Exhibition of the war crimes and Genocide by the Sri Lankan Government on 23rd and 24th of May 2009 by the Perth TYO, which though planned well before, took place just after the Disaster to Eelam Tamils and hence well attended by those outside the community as well. In hindsight this was a pointer for the need for international solidarity. The other major contribution was (with the permission of BTF) printed the book “Unspeakable Truth” and distributed to other States in Australia and to New Zealand at cost price.

Political Lobbying
State and Federal Parliamentarians were routinely approached seeking help to look after Refugees who arrived in Perth either directly or from other States. Two well attended public lectures by Dr Brian Senewiratne and Professor John Whitehall were organised; one was at University of Western Australia to publicise the sufferings of Tamils and their plight.

In order to develop International solidarity, ATC WA representatives addressed rallies organised by Socialist Alliance, Refugee Rights Action Network, Direct Action Group of WA to promote the cause of Asylum seekers and Refugees and attended meetings of CARAD (coalition for asylum seekers, refugees and detainees), Socialist Alliance, the Burmese Community and the Palestinian Community.

On the women Front, ATC WA contributed with placards and posters portraying the suffering of women in the homeland to the “Reclaim the night rally” organised by Roaring Women. Also a Lady member of ATC WA addressed on the humanitarian tragedy in Sri Lanka at the Pat Giles Lunch conducted by EMILY’s List WA.

ATC WA contributed its due share for the VKR Referendum conducted in Australia. Organised Remembrance Day vigils and events in memory of those who gave their lives for the Liberation of the homeland, some of which were attended by members of other communities. It is expected that in the years to come, more and more will join as members and everyone will become more active so that we can contribute much more for achieving the objectives of ATC.
Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer - Prof. Thas A Nirmalathas

Looking Back at the Year Passed:
By any standard, the launch of ATC and its traction among Tamil Community has been very strong. Within few months passed since the launch of ATC as the prime body with a democratically elected representation of the Australian Tamil Community, ATC was able to attract significant membership from our community in urgent need of an enduring organisation established with an objective of making representation of their political aspirations and wishes. In the current financial year ended on the 31st of March 2010, ATC has achieved a membership base comprised of 5 of Life Members, 889 Ordinary Members, and 304 associate Members. Over the same period, ATC has secured its prime funding through aggregate membership dues of $116,100. ATC has a strong army of volunteers spread among all chapters raising significant additional funding of $66,900 towards special strategic initiatives of the ATC and also helped ATC to attract an additional government grant of $4,200.

Expenditure Profile

SPECIAL PROJECTS-PUBLIC RELATIONS AND AWARENESS CAMPAIGN, $81,573, 76%
MEMBERSHIP ADMINISTRATIONS, $780, 1%
ADMINISTRATION & OPERATIONS, $6,750, 8%
HUMAN RIGHTS DAY EVENT, $3,096, 3%
300,000 REASON CAMPAIGN, $3,096, 3%
MEMBERSHIPS, $88,900, 48%
LIFE MEMBERSHIPS, $12,000, 6%
ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS, $15,200, 8%
GOVERNMENT GRANTS, $4,200, 2%
SPECIAL FUNDS RAISED, $66,900, 36%
MARKETING AND PROMOTION, $4,993, 5%
MEMER SERVICES, $4,658, 4%

ATC has adopted strong financial management by which it has scrutinised its spending tightly, prioritising strategic initiatives over routine administrative expenditure. To this end, ATC has directed $81,573 towards Public Relations and Awareness Raising activities to position ATC, to enhance its public visibility as the voice for the Australian Tamil Community and to advance its clear and consistent messages to politicians, media and wider community. In addition, it has used its Public Relations Projects to advance our organisation’s strength by training of office holders in key skills relating to Media Relations and Lobbying and building of strong team throughout the country.
To meet this high cost of public relations engagement, volunteers throughout Australia raised a total of $44,750 ($19,340 in NSW, $15,500 in WA, $7,410 in SA and $2,500 in VIC through member contributions as well as special events such as dinners, multicultural program, and music programs). ATC’s Internet presence is key to its visibility and has continued to invest moderately on information and communication technology services to the organisation. For a young organisation, it is critical to have recurring events which helps it to engage with the community it serves and ATC has funded such activities throughout the country costing a total of $4,658.

The Year Ahead of Us:
The membership in ATC remains and will remain in the future as the key political strength of our community in this country. In addition, the membership dues form the financial backbone of ATC and give the organisation the ability to advance its objectives through carefully formulated strategies and specific projects.

Though our membership remains strong in comparison to similar organisations in Australia, it remains significantly low for it to become a mature and a significant force towards achieving its objectives in the long term. To this end, Australian Tamil Community should pay its close attention to ATC’s objectives, its strategies and its political blueprint towards a lasting solution to the fundamental issues of the Tamils on the island of Sri Lanka. The Australian Tamil Community should renew its commitment to the Tamil’s Cause and extend their full-hearted support to the ATC for it to play an important and critical role in making a difference to our people back home. For ATC to remain a powerful and viable organisation, all Tamils in Australia should join ATC helping to achieve a membership base of at least 5,000 across all-over Australia.

While achieving this aspirational target of 5,000 membership all over Australia remains a paramount importance to ATC, it would take sometime for ATC to achieve this practically. Therefore, ATC should seriously consider strengthening its financial backbone through alternative funding mechanisms and special fund raising initiatives to support key strategic initiatives remains a must for the organisation. To this end, a special strategic initiatives fund with annual income in excess of $100,000 would be absolutely necessary. Our community is a very resourceful community with a heart to reach out and with the help of volunteers we should achieve this through carefully formulated community events and activities as well as sponsorships by members of the community.

With this setting in place, we can certainly look forward to a resourceful ATC committed to making Tamil Affairs in Australia its prime focus.
National Public Relations Team Report

Director of Public Relations   Dr Sam Pari
Deputy Director Public Relations  Ms Brami Jegan

Introduction
At the time of the inauguration of the Australian Tamil Congress (ATC) in August 2009, the Government of Sri Lanka had just declared, three months prior, an end to its war with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

With up to 40,000 Tamils killed in the final months of the war and more than 300,000 Tamils incarcerated indefinitely in Sri Lankan military controlled internment camps, the Tamil Diaspora was left shocked, deflated, abandoned and in disbelief at the lack of international support for the Tamils.

In the months leading up to the ‘end’ of the war, the Tamil Diaspora in Australia, New Zealand, Europe, America, Malaysia, South Africa and India had campaigned tirelessly through street protests, hunger strikes, letter writing campaigns and political lobbying to ask their respective governments to put pressure on the Government of Sri Lanka to end hostilities.

Certain international governments did respond publicly calling for an end to hostilities in Sri Lanka but sadly in Australia our government neither publicly condemned the brutality of war unleashed by the Government of Sri Lanka on civilians nor openly called for a cessation of hostilities. Throughout the war the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade maintained that it had ‘warm bilateral’ relations with Sri Lanka.

The Tamil Diaspora was also faced with the unbreakable challenge of cutting through the continuing stigmatisation of “Tamils = Terrorists”. The use of the national flag of Tamil Eelam, was commonly misinterpreted as the ‘Tamil Tigers flag’ during the protests and only worked to perpetuate this argument. This damaging stereotyping was also prevalent in the way the media reported the conflict and the often hostile response from the wider community when discussing the conflict in Sri Lanka.

Tasks of ATC Public Relations Team
Political indifferences towards the Tamil struggle for freedom, human and democratic rights in the Tamil homeland did not carry much recognition from the main stream media and major political parties. This left challenging tasks on an infant ATC with limited human and financial resources but with only enthusiasm and commitment of volunteer workers. The Public Relations (PR) team of ATC set out to meet these challenges by initially setting out two key objectives:

1. To end the debilitating and threatening image of the Tamil Diaspora and turn it into a positive, constructive, articulate and intelligent one;
2. To advocate for the release of the 300,000 Tamil civilians locked up indefinitely by the Sri Lankan military behind barbed wire fences.

Research showed that political lobbying as well as community awareness would be required in parallel to achieve these two objectives.

As the initial members of the PR team had no professional training in political lobbying, liaising with ministerial staff, writing press releases and giving media interviews, it was decided by ATC Board
of Directors that the PR Team would undergo this training and receive professional advice on key messaging, design and rollout of an Australia wide awareness campaign. In making this decision advice was sought from the other Diaspora communities who had also engaged in professional advice.

It was in light of this strategy that ATC committed to engaging the services of PR professionals to achieve its two key objectives.

The first objective was achieved through tightly controlled and strategically placed key messaging in all external communications with the Australian public, media and politicians.

The second objective was achieved through a viral awareness campaign - 300,000 Reasons, discussed later in the report, to put pressure on the Australian government to raise the ongoing human rights abuses in Sri Lanka during the Commonwealth Heads of Governments Meeting in December 2010.

Through the seven months of engagement with the PR professionals, unforseen challenges arose around the response of the Australian government and media of asylum seekers making their way to Australia by boat. The stigmatisation of Tamils being terrorists was once again perpetuated with a backdrop to Australia’s recent past in which boat people were demonised and treated very inhumanely for political gain. It was a challenging time for ATC, who were trying to balance healthy relationships with representatives of all sides of politics, yet respond to the needs of genuine asylum seekers fleeing from persecution and injustice unleashed by the Sri Lankan regime.

The ATC PR team also worked hard and round-the-clock at times to undertake damage control when misquotations, misrepresentations and misinterpretation in the media of individuals within and outside ATC took place.

We believe that ATC was able to delicately overcome many of the challenges, while continuing to keep the earned respect of the politicians and the media.

ATC is now the most commonly quoted Tamil organisation in the media across all issues related to Sri Lanka and the Tamil Diaspora in Australia and is continuing to bring strong relations with politicians, while positioning the Tamil community as successful, passionate and strong.

The following are a list of ATC’s tangible successes, made in a short period of time due to tireless hard work from dozens of our members.

Summary Report from ATC National Public Relations Team 2010*

1. ATC has written a large number of briefing documents and letters to MPs, Senators and policy makers.

2. Lobbying by the political team and public relations team has contributed significantly to several motions being passed in Federal Parliament by MPs and Senators:
   - Statement to the House by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, The Hon Stephen Smith MP, 14/9/09
   - Response to Question upon Notice asked by Senator Bob Brown to Senator Faulkner regarding Aid Funding to Sri Lanka, 16/10/09
   - Response to Question Without Notice, by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, The Hon Stephen Smith MP, 16/11/09

* Up to and including 31 March 2010
Response to Question Without Notice asked by Senator Sarah Hanson-Young to Senator The Hon Chris Evans, Minister for Immigration, 18/11/09
Response to Question Without Notice asked by Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, to Hon Kevin Rudd MP, Prime Minister, 25/11/09
Motion Moved by Nick Champion, Chair of the ALP National Security Caucus Committee regarding Sri Lanka, 26/11/09

3. ATC’s timely media releases and regular liaising with the media has ensured that the Tamil issues have been covered substantially in the Australian mainstream media.

Print Media:
Rudd should talk tough to Sri Lanka – 17/10/09, The Daily Telegraph
Tamils herded into disease-ridden camps seek any escape – 24/10/09, The Australian
Tamils face death if sent home - Asylum Crisis – 24/10/09, The Australian
Unions attack PM on asylum - ACTU to call for Tamils to be brought to Christmas Island – 2/11/09, The Australian
Health concerns for Tamil asylum-seekers – 2/11/09, The Australian
Tamils say take the deal – 13/11/09, Herald-Sun
Test of stamina – 16/11/09, The Australian
Detainee brawl began over game of pool – 24/11/09, SMH
Tamil refugee on Merak boat dies – 26/12/09, The Australian
Asylum seeker’s death prompts resettlement plea – 26/12/09, SMH
Australia urged to aid boat people – 26/12/09, The Age
This is a set back only, Tamil struggle hasn’t been crushed – 3/1/10, Ravaya Newspaper
ASIO warning ignored for deal on Tamil refugees – 13/1/10, The Australian
Refugee family faces indefinite detention – 12/1/10, The Australian
Tamil asylum seekers still need protection – 25/3/10, The Age

Broadcast Media:
Sri Lanka jails Tamil journalist for 20 years – 1/9/09, ABC
Tamils Regrouping? – 6/10/09, SBS TV World News
Webster talks with ATC – 13/10/09, 2UE Sydney
Sri Lankans Plead For Asylum – 15/10/09, SBS 6.30pm TV World News
There has been a desperate plea for the Sri Lankans detained – 15/10/09, SBS TV World News
The Australian Tamil Congress wants the Fed Govt to put more pressure – 15/10/09, Triple J Sydney
An Australian Tamil group has called on the Federal Government to put more... – 15/10/09, Triple J Melbourne
A nine year old Tamil Sri Lankan girl, currently one of 255 people – 15/10/09, ABC 702 Sydney
The 255 Sri Lankans moored in West Java say they will not leave – 15/10/09, ABC 774 Melbourne
ATC, a human rights group, said.. – 15/10/09, ABC 702 Sydney
More than 250 Sri Lankans aboard a boat are refusing to come ashore – 15/10/09, Triple J Melbourne
The Australian Tamil group says the Fed Govt should pressure Sri Lanka to – 15/10/09, ABC Newcastle
More than 260 Sri Lankans on board a boat in West Java are... – 15/10/09, ABC 702 Sydney
Interview with ATC – 16/10/09, 4GCR ABC Gold and Tweed Coasts
Price replays a touching plea from young Brenda, a Sri Lankan Asylum Seeker – 16/10/09, 2UE Sydney
Refugee Advocates say Kevin Rudd, PM should work with the Sri Lankan Govt.. – 17/10/09, 2CC Canberra
It is claimed an asylum seeker vessel was deliberately sabotaged – 22/10/09, 2SM Sydney
Question asked by ATC – 22/10/09, ABC Q and A
Tamils slowly leaving refugee camps Waiting to go home – 20/10/09, ABC
UN notes Sri Lankan progress on camps – 20/10/09, ABC
Tamil Refugees Resettled – 23/10/09, SBS 6.30pm TV World News
‘Absolute fear’ pushing Tamils to Australia – 23/10/09, ABC
ATC comments on the Tamil struggle – 26/10/09, ABC Darwin Adelaide
The Australian Tamil community is seeking compassion from PM Rudd – 30/10/09, 2SM Sydney
Tony Abbott, Federal Opposition frontbencher, is linking the sinking – 3/11/09, ABC 666 Canberra
Tony Abbott, Federal Opposition frontbencher, is linking the sinking of a boat of... – 3/11/09, Radio National Canberra
Three confirmed dead in boat tragedy – 3/11/09, ABC
US calls for detained Tamils to be released – 9/11/09, ABC
The Australian Tamil Congress is offering to help the Fed Govt convince – 12/11/09, ABC 666 Canberra
Peak Tamil offers Oceanic help – 12/11/09, ABC
Tamils reject deal to disembark – 12/11/09, ABC
Tamil group urges asylum seekers to accept govt deal – 12/11/09, AAP
The Australian Tamil Congress is offering to help the Fed Govt convince the... – 12/11/09, Radio National Canberra
The Australian Tamil community says the 78 asylum seekers should be settled in Australia – 13/11/09, 2NC ABC Newcastle
Australian Tamil groups say they are receiving news of a nearing solution – 13/11/09, 2SM Sydney
John Holmes, Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations, has visited refugee camps – 20/11/09, 2RN Radio National
UN Notes Sri Lankan progress on the camps – 20/11/09, ABC Radio
Life Matters – 24/11/09, ABC Radio National
Sri Lanka: Tamil detention over? – 6/12/09, 2SER Razor’s Edge
Displaced Sri Lankan Tamils ‘still denied freedom of movement’ – 9/12/09, ABC Radio
Asylum seeker dies on boat in Indonesian port – 24/12/09, Australia News Network
Asylum seeker dies aboard boat – 24/12/09, ABC News
Claims Tamil asylum seeker was refused medical treatment – 24/12/09, ABC Radio
Authorities accused of asylum seeker attacks – 25/12/09, ABC News
Tamil asylum seekers keep trying for Australian dream – 5/1/10, Al Jazeera
Australian Tamils concerned at Visa denials – 12/1/10, ABC TV News
Tamil refugees fail security checks – 12/1/10, ABC TV News
ASIO refuses asylum seekers – 12/1/10, SBS TV News
Interview of Dr Sam Pari – 13/1/10, ABC Radio Australia
PANEL: the Tamil factor in Sri Lankan polls – 26/1/10, ABC Radio Australia
Sri Lanka post election – 3/2/10, Radio Adelaide
Sri Lankan opposition leader arrested – 9/2/10, The Wire
UN Refugee Agency may change some protection guidelines – 12/3/10, ABC Radio
UN changes may see detainees sent home – 12/3/10, ABC News
Sri Lanka's Tamils drops demand for separate state – 16/3/10, ABC Radio Australia
Referendum on Vaddukoddai Resolution Explained – 31/03/10, 3CR Radio
4. ATC launched the 300,000 Reasons campaign in early August as a call to action for both the Australian public and the Australian government, to advocate for the 300,000 Tamils who were being and/or had been imprisoned in military camps in Sri Lanka. It was in the form of a viral marketing campaign comprising of a website and online petition (300000.com.au), email distribution database, a Facebook cause page, Facebook bulletins delivered to members and postcard distribution. As of mid December, nearly 2,500 emails had been sent to PM Kevin Rudd and each signatory’s local MP, about 1,500 signed campaign postcards were handed in back to ATC so that they could be presented to PM Rudd through various MPs, over 1500 people had joined the Facebook group. Various MPs, human rights activists and professionals commented on the very effective design of the campaign. We believe that this campaign contributed to the Australian government’s decision to raise the issue of Sri Lanka’s human rights at the CHOGM in Trinidad and Tobago.

5. ATC PR team organised Tamils say “Thank you”, an event to show our gratitude to the many non-Tamil Australians who have dedicated their time and energy to help create awareness of the plight of the Tamil people.

6. ATC’s PR team’s active campaigning and successful advocacy work has enabled ATC representatives to be invited to address several forums, events and conferences, including the ‘Labor Security Caucus’ at Parliament House in Canberra.

7. Since November 2009, ATC has published Murasu, a monthly newsletter for our members. An English and Tamil version has been created without fail. A special edition was published for the one year anniversary of the May Massacre. Every single edition has been archived with the National Library of Australia so future generations may also have access. These can be viewed at [http://pandora.nla.gov.au/tep/112241](http://pandora.nla.gov.au/tep/112241)

8. ATC publishes regular news briefs which summarises events relating to the Tamil issue unfolding in Sri Lanka and abroad.

9. The ATC website, [www.australiantamilcongress.com](http://www.australiantamilcongress.com), is updated regularly.

10. ATC subscribed to daily email alerts from the Tamil Justice blog, [www.tamiljustice.com](http://www.tamiljustice.com). Latest posts also appear on the ATC website giving viewers access to daily updates. This blog is independently run by volunteers.

11. A blueprint with short, medium and long term goals for ATC was prepared and launched at the Australian Parliament House in Canberra. This is a major milestone for ATC and for the Australian Tamil community.

These achievements are a testament to the hard work of our volunteers and the support of our members both in spirit and in kind.

With more people behind us we can reach our goals much sooner. So, we ask you to help in encouraging more people to join ATC, get involved in our activities and make it a stronger organisation.
Introduction
The end of the military conflict in Sri Lanka in May 2009 resulted in the death of tens of thousands of Tamils and a large scale destruction of property and wealth which was widely condemned by world leaders and International humanitarian Organisations. This convinced the Tamil Diaspora world wide and in particular, in Australia, to form a democratic and country-wide based vibrant Tamil organisation to articulate the interests of the Tamils living in Australia and Sri Lanka. Australian Tamil Congress (ATC) was launched across the different capital cities in August 2009 to adopt a new approach to help Tamils living in Sri Lanka to achieve their legitimate political and economic aspirations, and equally important, to create a favorable perceptions on the wider Australian society on issues relevant to Tamils. A National Political Affairs Group was formed in October 2009 to articulate and help achieve these objectives, with particular focus on political and diplomatic activities among Australian politicians, government officials, other prominent Australians and the general public.

Key Objectives and Functional Details
The primary objectives of the National Political Affairs Group are:

1. Setting the political direction reflecting the aspirations of Tamils living in Australia and Sri Lanka, while also allowing for realistic/sympathetic hearing from mainstream Australian society and politicians;  
2. Strategic positioning and effective collaboration of ATC with other like-minded Tamil Organisations functioning in Australia and overseas;  
3. Conducting lobbying with senior government ministers and officials, Parliamentarians, and other special interest groups including trade unions, human rights organisations and church groups;  
4. Building partnership with political and human rights groups in Australia and overseas, and work cooperatively in forums and other tasks of common interest;  
5. Research and preparation of high-quality materials including presentations, videos, booklets, press-releases, letters and speeches as needed; and  
6. Organising meetings and conferences with the involvement of reputed experts, eminent persons and others that will help promote our political objectives, and will also increase the political understanding amongst the members of our society.

The coherent and effective functioning of the political group has been achieved through the formations of subgroups as indicated below:

1. State-wide groups for political activities and lobbying across all states;  
2. Inter-state groups with focus on special interest activities (e.g., women’s group; refugee action, trade unions, human rights Organisations and church groups); and  
3. Inter-state, “Research, Analysis and Writing” group with particular focus on carrying out targeted research on selected topics, and preparing high quality materials including writing letters to facilitate lobbying.
To organise lobbying activities among Parliamentarians, systems, procedures and spreadsheets have been set-up to facilitate the analysis of each electorate, its demography, and its elected member. Key electorate coordinators have been appointed for selected electorates. Planning meetings were held in Melbourne (28th March 2010) and Sydney (02nd May 2010) among the state political groups to coordinate the lobbying activities in anticipation of the Australian federal election. Whenever necessary, inter-state groups interact through teleconferences and coordinate their actions.

**Blueprint for the Future of Tamils in Sri Lanka**

Twenty two representatives from NSW, VIC, QLD, SA and WA participated in a one day caucus meeting (12th December 2009) at Melbourne and discussed the short, medium and long term political objectives and political strategies for ATC. Key issues discussed were “economic empowerment of Eelam Tamils”, “building political capacity of Eelam Tamils” and “architecting a political solution and lobbying for it”.

The Melbourne caucus meeting outcomes led to the development of a blueprint to initiate dialogue and debate on Sri Lanka’s future with regards to the Tamil issues. ATC’s aim is to galvanise support from Sri Lankan Tamils, the Tamil Diaspora, representatives from the Australian Government, NGOs and the international community to progress the short, medium and long term goals contained in the blueprint document.

Return to normal living conditions and meeting the immediate welfare needs of all Tamils in the North and East of Sri Lanka, are the primary short term goal for the ATC. Significant improvement in democratic and administrative framework with the view to achieve major development in the North and East of Sri Lanka is the key medium term goal in the blueprint. Additionally, the ATC will campaign to ensure that independent investigations are conducted through the United Nations or other relevant authority, into war crimes and breaches of international humanitarian law committed during the war, as this is an essential step in achieving true national reconciliation and sustainable peace on the island. The ATC will also vigorously campaign to ensure the international community facilitates a constructive dialogue aimed at achieving a political solution in Sri Lanka which enshrines equal democratic, legal, political and social rights for all Sri Lankans, regardless of their religion or ethnicity. ATC's view is that any long-term political solution will include an enhanced level of autonomy for Tamils in Sri Lanka with the recognition of their right to self-determination.

The blueprint will be launched at the Parliament House on 2 June 2010. Several Parliamentarians from all three major parties, prominent journalists and several other distinguished Australians are expected to participate in this event.

**Notable Actions and Lobbying Activities**

In a short period of existence, ATC has made great progress in lobbying due to tireless hard work from dozens of our members. The National Political Affairs Group has been working cohesively and objectively. Political group members from each state have met several MPs and Senators to articulate the Tamil issues, and are maintaining cordial relationships with them. The team includes a wing which focuses on the plight of Tamil women and children, and the women’s group also had several meetings with policy makers, MPs and Senators. Regular trips have been made to Canberra by delegates from around Australia for important meetings. A few important actions carried out by this group are highlighted here:
1. ATC representatives were a part of the Tamil delegation that was invited to meet Foreign Minister Hon. Stephen Smith at DFAT, Canberra on 14 September 2009. We conveyed the positions of the Tamil Diaspora to the Minister, and have continued our close correspondence with the DFAT officials.

2. A letter addressing ATC’s position on the refugee/IDP issues and about the 300,000 campaign was dispatched on 22 October 2009 to the Prime Minister and all MPs and Senators, and this was followed by several direct meetings with Parliamentarians.

3. A well-researched and clearly articulated submission, requesting that the human rights abuses in Sri Lanka be addressed at the CHOGM meeting was submitted on 3 November 2009 to the Secretary General of the CHOGM, the Prime Minister of Australia and several other dignitaries connected to the CHOGM. This issue was also raised in direct meetings with several Parliamentarians. An acknowledgement note was sent to the Prime Minister of Australia following the CHOGM decision to not allow Sri Lanka to host the 2011 CHOGM meeting based on its deplorable human rights record.

4. ATC representatives were a part of the Tamil delegation that met and conveyed the positions of the Tamil Diaspora to The Right Hon Des Browne, British Prime Minister’s special envoy to Sri Lanka on 7 November 2009 at the British High Commissioner’s Residence in Canberra.

5. ATC was given a rare opportunity to address the Labor National Security Caucus meeting at the Parliament House on 23 November 2009. All eight MPs present were highly sympathetic towards the Tamil issue, and their questions and comments clearly conveyed their knowledge on this issue as well as their solidarity with the Tamils.

6. Two human rights forums, one at Melbourne (10 December 2009) and the other at Brisbane (19 February 2010) have been organised by ATC. Prominent Australian academics, Parliamentarians and several other dignitaries took part in it.
7. ATC is the country organisation that represents Australian Tamils in the Global Tamil Forum (GTF). ATC plays a key part in developing GTF’s policies and functions. ATC also played an important role in the GTF’s successful launch held in the British Parliament House on 22 February 2010. ATC Women’s Group was instrumental in the formation of the GTF Women’s Group, Global Tamil Women’s Forum (GTWF).

8. ATC has written several times to the Prime Minister, the Immigration Minister and the Foreign Minister regarding the issues faced by Tamil refugees in Australia and overseas. ATC representatives had several meetings with the DIAC officials during the period of January – April 2010, and discussed issues such as the plight of the Tamil refugees in Merak (Indonesia), Villawood and Christmas Island, the long delays in obtaining security clearances, and also on the issue of returning the Tamil refugees based on the premise that Sri Lanka is becoming safe for Tamils (Note: submissions along these lines were also provided to UNHCR to be considered for their assessment of the Sri Lankan situation).

9. ATC provided a detailed response to the Ministerial Statement on Sri Lanka delivered by the Foreign Minister Hon. Stephen Smith in the Parliament on 17 March 2010. ATC letter expressed gratitude for the financial assistance provided to the displaced Tamils in Sri Lanka, and also requested active Australian involvement in achieving a long-term political solution to the Tamil problem.

10. ATC representatives were a part of the Tamil delegates invited to meet senior officials from DFAT, DIAC and AusAid on 22 April 2010. ATC delegates expressed their views on several issues including on the long-term political solution and on the government decision to temporarily suspend processing of refugee applications from Sri Lanka.

11. Our members maintain cordial relationships with tens of elected members, from all major parties, representing all states and territories (both at federal and state levels). On the request of our members, several MPs and Senators have raised Tamil issues in the Parliament, and have also shown genuine commitment towards the Tamil cause.

12. Our members also maintain productive working arrangements with tens of other prominent Australians, including academics, lawyers, human rights/trade union/refugee activists and church leaders across all states. This group has also been very helpful, either through their direct advocacy or by providing guidance to ATC.

A Few Positive Outcomes and Future Activities
The world-wide actions of the Tamil Diaspora, including those from ATC, have played an important part in achieving some positive outcomes for the Tamils. A few of these are:

1. Release of more than 200,000 Tamils from the internment camps within a period of six months as opposed to the original plan to keep them in the camps for up to three years;

2. The internationalisation of our struggle and the explicit recognition by the world powers the critical role Tamil Diaspora has to play in resolving the ethnic crisis;

3. Consistent messages from the West regarding the need to improve human rights standards in Sri Lanka by actions such as withdrawal of the GSP+ concessions and CHOGM hosting privileges;

4. Persistent demands to Sri Lanka for accountability measures with regards to alleged war crimes and possible violations of international humanitarian law; and
5. Repeated pleas from the Western countries and India to work towards a political solution and national reconciliation.

While these are very minor initiatives from the world community, these small positive outcomes should motivate us for further concentrated actions in this regard.

It is expected that the future activities of the National Political Affairs Group will focus on three major themes based on the following:

1. Influencing the policies of the Australian government on Sri Lanka to reflect the interests of the Tamils. Efforts will be made to create greater awareness of the Tamil problem among the Australian politicians, government officials, other prominent Australians and the general public. Efforts will also be made to increase the number of Australian Parliamentarians who have a deeper understanding of the Tamil issues and are sympathetic towards our plight;

2. Working together with the other international Diaspora organisations in arriving at common positions and strategies, and for pooling of resources; and

3. Interacting closely with the elected Tamil representatives from Sri Lanka to provide possible assistance in their attempt to amicably resolve the Tamil crisis.

It is only a year since Tamils in Sri Lanka faced a major catastrophe in their struggle for equality and freedom. The events of the past several years have brought immeasurable losses, disappointments, and sadness to all Tamils. Despite the enormity of the loss, the Tamils across the world and in Sri Lanka have risen with admirable resilience, and noticeable flexibility to deal with their on-going political and human rights issues. While Tamils face serious existential crisis with a possible outcome of erosion of Tamil identity in their homeland, there are also a few positive signs which we can motivate us for further actions. It is the Tamil Diaspora’s duty to use every available opportunity, and then to create more, for achieving justice, peace, freedom and prosperity for our Tamil brethren living in Sri Lanka.
**Significant Events after 31 March 2010**

**Introduction**

The annual report covers events up to 31 March 2010. A brief summary of events which were thought to be significant are reported here. The areas covered are Settlement of Refugees and related issues resulting from arrival of numerous boats at Australian border. The other politically significant event is the Blue Print Launch which took place on 2 June 2010 at the Federal Parliament House. This event has been widely covered in the ATC News Letter of June 2010 and as such a brief summary is given to avoid repetition. This report also covers a few other politically significant events such as meeting Mr. Philip Ruddock MP (former Immigration Minister) and details of motion on war crimes moved in the Senate by Senator Sarah Hanson-Young.

**Australian Tamil Congress (ATC) activities in the Settlement of Refugees**

The Australian Tamil Congress assists and works with the Tamil refugees in the major cities, who have been granted humanitarian protection visas. ATC endeavours to facilitate with finding suitable accommodation, language and skill development, migration and legal assistance, family reunion, integration with Tamil community, and helping with medical and psychological concerns.

The first boat load of Tamil refugees arrived at the Christmas Island Detention Centre (IDC) on the 28th of June 2009. It was a very emotional time as the Tamil community was over-occupied with the fate of tens of thousands of people and the predicament of hundreds of thousands in the Tamil homeland in the Island of Sri Lanka. Since then many boats more boats have arrived and are being housed many in locations throughout Australia.

**ATC Contact with Refugees**

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) facilitated Dr. Bala Vigneswaran, the Community Project Coordinator of ATC NSW, to travel to Christmas Island in mid-December 2009. As the first community representative, he spent one week in the IDC and met a number of Tamil men, women and families. ATC assured the detainees that the Tamil community in Australia is very keen to see an early resolution for their humanitarian visa applications and their smooth settlement in Australia. We encouraged them to do everything possible to develop mental and physical readiness and language and personal skills to start new lives. Further, we sought their expectations from the Tamil community in Australia with respect to assisting them during their stay in the detention centre and settlement.

The ATC continued to follow up the interactions with the detainees in the Christmas Island IDC. DIAC acknowledging the work done by ATC in the refugee affairs and had a positive outcomes another visit to Christmas Island IDC was organized in April 2010 for two of the ATC representatives to meet the refugees.

There are nearly 800 protection visa seekers of Tamil background in various IDCs in Australia. Most of them arrived at Christmas Island as single adult males. There are families, unaccompanied minors and a few single adult females as well. Single adult males are detained in Christmas Island and Villawood IDCs. The families are accommodated in Darwin and Villawood. New arrivals, who reached Christmas Island after the announcement of review freeze in April 2010, are also detained in Christmas Island.
A number of visa applications were refused either by the DIAC or by the Independent Reviewer. Few applications were subsequently refused by the Minister of Immigration as well. ATC is working closely with the detainees, whose refugee claims were refused. We are interacting with migration and human rights lawyers, and the detainees. We serve as a resource and facilitation team in the background in the appeals for a review and for the high court cases contesting the refugee application review process. Particularly, we invest quality time with the detainees in developing self confidence and self esteem.

There are three adults and two children, who arrived in Christmas Island after being rescued by the customs vessel, Oceanic Viking. There are nine adults, who are charged for their alleged involvement in a brawl in the Christmas Island IDC. We are working with them and facilitate legal representation for them.

**Lobbying on behalf of Refugees**

ATC has been presenting the cases of Tamil refugees with senior government officials and political leaders. ATC representatives have had multiple meetings with senior officers of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. ATC delegations have met the Minister for Immigration Hon. Senator Chris Evans and Parliamentary Secretary for Immigration and Settlement Services. During our meetings with the MPs and the Senators from the Federal Parliament and the MLCs and the Senators from the State parliaments we always voice the concerns of the detainees.

ATC is working with other organisations and individuals who are serving the needs of refugees. we particularly appreciate the untiring support of Mr. Ian Rintoul (Refugee Action Coalition – New South Wales) and Ms. Pamela Curr(Asylum Seeker Resource Centre – Melbourne) for the rights of refugees. We thank Hon. Sara Hanson Young for her genuine interest in the welfare of the Tamil refugees and the detainees.

**Way Forward: ATC’s National Coordination for Refugees and Migrants**

The Interim Board of the ATC observes that all refugee and migrant activities by each State chapter has been undertaken without proper central coordination. Hence, a new arrangement was constituted with the formation of National Coordinator for Refugees and Migrants with sub-committees in each Regional Chapter to look after settlement assistance for refugees and migrants. Funds are yet to be allocated for these activities.

To receive any information, or to provide any comments or contributions, please write to vigneswaran@australiantamilcongress.com or sarm@australiantamilcongress.com, or call 0404404777.

**Political Lobbying**

ATC representatives met with Mr. Philip Ruddock MP (former Immigration Minister) on 21st May 2010 and had a very fruitful meeting. He was very conversant with the Tamil issues and history, and expressed his disappointment at Tamils not being offered a meaningful solution under the present circumstances. He has indicated his willingness to take up the Tamil issues on Human Rights deliberations and also provided valuable advice regarding the position organisations such as ATC should take on individual refugee applications.

**Senate Motion on War Crimes in Sri Lanka**

All the efforts of the political group resulted in Senator Sarah Hanson-Young of South Australia moving the following motion in the Senate on 24 June 2010, which was passed:
That the Senate:
(a) Notes:
   i. the recent report from the International Crisis Group on War Crimes in Sri Lanka;
   ii. this report recommends, among other things, for the United Nations to conduct an
       independent international inquiry into the alleged war crimes in Sri Lanka during the last
       year of the conflict;
(b) Welcomes:
   i. The United Nations Secretary General’s establishment of an Advisory Panel on Sri Lanka;
   ii. The establishment in Sri Lanka of a Lessons Learned and Reconciliation Commission, and
       urges the Sri Lankan Government to ensure the Commission operates in an independent
       way; and
(c) Reaffirms the importance of credible investigations into all allegations of violations of human
    rights, and
(d) Calls on the Australian Government to support an effective process of national reconciliation, to
    allow Sri Lanka to move forward after years of conflict.

Australian Tamil Congress Blueprint Launch
The Australian Tamil Congress (ATC) Blueprint was officially launched to Australian politicians
and policy makers on 2 June 2010 at the Australian Parliament House. Guest speeches were
delivered by Hon. John Dowd AO QC, President of the International Commission of Jurists -
Australia and Mr. Julian Burnside AO QC, Australian Barrister, and Human Rights and Refugee
Advocate. The event was chaired by Dr. Sam Pari, Director of Public Relations, and addresses
were also given by Prof. Thas A Nirmalathas, Treasurer and Dr. Raj T Rajeswaran, Chairman.

It represents what the ATC believes to be the path towards ethnic harmony in Sri Lanka. It is a
document outlining a detailed plan of action. We believe this is the first time such a document has
been created and such an initiative has taken place in Australia’s history. This was achieved through
the combined effort of dedicated individuals from the ATC Political Strategy and Public Relations
teams worked tirelessly over several months to produce this document and organise this event.

The event was well attended by over 20 Federal Parliamentarians and/or their senior members
of staff, representatives from the Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Immigration and
Citizenship, Aus AID and other policy makers. The blueprint was warmly received by all who attended,
and provided an invaluable opportunity to raise awareness of ATC as the national body representing
the voice of Australian Tamils.
## Financial Reports

**AUSTRALIAN TAMIL CONGRESS LTD**  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)  
ACN 138 993 582  
INCOME STATEMENT  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2010

### INCOME

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>Member Fees - Life</td>
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<td>Member Contribution - Donation</td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
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### EXPENSES

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#### Membership Administration

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#### Marketing and Promotion

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#### Member Services

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<td>News Feeds</td>
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<td>Membership Fee - Global Tamil Forum</td>
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<td><strong>Sub Total</strong></td>
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#### Special Projects

#### Public Relations & Awareness Campaign

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<td>Professional Services - External</td>
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#### 300,000 Reason Campaign

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#### Human Rights

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Income (Loss)</strong></td>
<td>$ 76,779.84</td>
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Long form Statutory Financial Statements of Australian Tamil Congress Ltd will be available for download from ATC Website after 10 July 2010
### AUSTRALIAN TAMIL CONGRESS LTD
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
ACN 138 993 852
BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2010

#### ASSETS

##### CURRENT ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash on hand</td>
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<td>CBA - National Petty Cash Chq Account</td>
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##### LONG TERM ASSETS

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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
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#### LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

##### CURRENT LIABILITIES

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<td>Unearned Income - Membership Fees - NSW</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unearned Income - Membership Fees - SA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
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##### EQUITY

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<tbody>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</strong></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Long form Statutory Financial Statements of Australian Tamil Congress Ltd will be available for download from ATC Website after 10 July 2010.
Acknowledgements

The Australian Tamil Congress (ATC) wishes to thank following distinguished persons for their kind messages of best wishes and goodwill sent for the publication of the first ATC Annual Report 2009 – 2010, for the period starting from 20 August 2009 to 31 March 2010:

Professor Dr. S J Emmanuel, President of Global Tamil forum
Senator Ms Sarah Hanson-Young - South Australia
Senator Ms Claire Moore - Queensland
Senator Mark Furner - Queensland
Dr Dennis Jensen MP - Western Australia

A number of office bearers and members of ATC at various stages of production of the Annual Report have made contributions, which are gratefully acknowledged.

ATC wishes to thank the following groups of individuals who have participated and contributed on 5th September 2009 in the formation and the selection of ATC interim Board of Directors and office bearers:

**New South Wales:** Mr Thushanthan Mohanarajah, Dr Sampavi Parimalanathan, Mrs Varuni Balachandar, Mr Harry Balachandar, Dr Bala Vigneswaran (6 participants)
Apology: Dr Mainthan Palendira

**Queensland:** Dr Brian Senewiratne and Mr Chinniah Arunagiri (2 participants)

**South Australia:** Dr Kamal G Nathan (1 participant)

**Victoria:** Mr Selvadurai Pathmalinkam, Prof. Thas A Nirmalathas, Dr. Naraan Mohan, Mr Paul Rajeswaran, Mr Nithy T Nithyakeerthy, Dr Sri Srithar, Mr Anthony Gratian, Mr Johnny Chrysostom, Mr Satiya Sivanesan, Mr Nishanthan Vivekananthan, Mr Selvendran Seevanayagam, Mr Arjun Ganeshalingam (12 participants)

**Western Australia:** Dr Raj T Rajeswaran (1 participant)

ATC board of directors wish to specially acknowledge the contributions made by outgoing Directors Dr Mainthan Palendira, Mr Selvadurai Pathmalinkam and Mr Thushanthan Mohanarajah from the beginning to the end of their term on 17th July 2010. They have served the ATC and the community well during this period.

ATC extends special thanks to those Chapter officials and members who have worked tirelessly to take where ATC is now.
AUSTRALIAN TAMIL CONGRESS

Formed in August 2009, the Australian Tamil Congress (ATC) is the national body of Australian Tamils. We encourage the positive participation of Tamils in Australian society, highlight issues of Importance of Tamils, uphold core Australian values and engage other communities, governments and organisations in addressing the socio-cultural and political concerns of Tamils in the island of Sri Lanka.

ATC National Headoffice - 6 Third Avenue, Rossmoyne, WA 6148

ABN - 97 138 993 852
Phone - 1300 660 629
Fax - 1300 660 244
Website - www.australian tamilcongress.com
Email - info@australian tamilcongress.com

ATC Chapters

NSW 
P O Box 871
Parramatta
NSW 2124

ACT 
PO Box 873
Belconnen
ACT 2616

QLD 
P O Box 645
Mount Ommaney
QLD 4074

SA 
P O Box 6136
Linden Park
SA 5065

VIC 
P O Box 634
Lilydale
VIC 3179

WA 
6 Third Avenue
Rossmoyne
WA 6148

Auditors
Mr. Terry Vale
Ryecrofts Pty Ltd
P O Box 457
Belgrave DC 3160
Auditor Reg. No. 305 760