

Nar we all yone

(this is for all of us)



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**Sierra Leone Community
Household Survey and Profile
NSW & ACT
June 2005**

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Sierra Leone Community Household Survey and Profile

NSW & ACT
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Report Outline

This report is divided into two sections:

Section 1 contains the results of research into the Sierra Leone Community via a household survey, in-depth interviews and focus group.

Section 2 is information relevant to services who may wish to work with the community and includes background information about Sierra Leone and why people have come to Australia, suggested strategies and ways to access the community and community contacts.

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Published by Blacktown MRC - **June 2005**.

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Blacktown MRC would like to acknowledge the contribution of the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs through their funding of our settlement services and the Small & Emerging Communities Project which was involved in the production of this report.

Foreword

Welcome to ***Nar we all yone (this is for all of us)*** - Sierra Leone Community Household Survey & Profile in NSW & ACT. I hope this profile surveyed by members of the Sierra Leone Refugee Support Group and the Blacktown MRC will:

- help our two organisations to better understand the community in which we are working;
- help members of the Sierra Leone community itself understand the growing issues, problems and needs so that they can foster cooperation amongst themselves towards meeting these challenges;
- enhance the skills of the organisations in working in the community and making them more effective in bringing about desired changes;
- help prevent wastage of human, material and financial resources by helping to ensure actions are appropriate and effective;
- assist the organisations to effectively target its efforts to a specific group in a suitable manner;
- help to monitor the results of a particular program or action, and assist the organisations to take corrective or preventative action as required.
- developing better networks that will enable our organisations meet the various challenges raised in this profile.

Thank you for taking your time to read on and we welcome suggestions on how we can make this better next time.

Regards

Andrew M.A. Sankoh

Secretary

Sierra Leone Refugee Support Group

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Executive

The Sierra Leone Community is a small but rapidly growing community. In late 2004, the Sierra Leone Refugee Support Group approached Blacktown MRC with the idea to conduct a Household Survey of Sierra Leoneans living in NSW.

Aims

- Provide an up-to-date snapshot of demographics of the Sierra Leone community and community need
- Educate the wider community and government services about the Sierra Leone community
- Provide data to assist government agencies and decision makers in planning programs and services for the community.

Household Surveys

A Household Survey was designed to elicit demographic information about the community and was modeled on information contained in the ABS Census.

The Project Team administered surveys using a variety of methods.

In total 390 Household surveys were completed, 380 for NSW and 10 for the ACT.

Based on government statistics, there is approximately 600 Sierra Leoneans living in NSW and 50 living in the ACT.

The survey sample represents over 60% of all Sierra Leoneans in NSW and 20% of those living in the ACT.

Focus group and interviews

In order to obtain more detailed data about specific issues that arose from the survey, 16 phone interviews were held with community members. A focus group was held with the entire community in Wagga Wagga during a field visit in April. The focus group elicited information about settlement issues and challenges for the community.

Sierra Leone Community Household Survey Results

Areas where people live

The majority of Sierra Leoneans live in the inner and middle western suburbs of Sydney, often within easy access to public transport.

Age & Gender

There are a slightly higher proportion of females with 53% of respondents being female and 47% male. There are a significantly high proportion of children and youth in the community and very few people over 55 years.

Sierra Leonean Languages

The majority of people speak Krio followed by Mende, Temne, Madingo and Kono.

Arrival Year & Immigration Program

Although Sierra Leoneans have settled in NSW since the early 1980's, the majority of respondents (84.5%) arrived since 2000 with the highest number arriving in 2004. For those that arrived since 2000, 96% came as refugees.

Residency status

A large proportion of overall respondents (56%) are Australian citizens. For those who arrived in Australia in 2002 or earlier the proportion is 89%, representing a very high number of people who are Australian Citizens.

English proficiency

There were generally high levels of English language proficiency reported. 71.5% have studied English since coming to Australia with 53.5% still feeling that they need more English classes.

There are a significantly higher proportion of young people under 18 who needed more English. Many young people and children have experienced disrupted schooling as a result of the war.

Level of education

The highest level of education achieved was Secondary (50%). 8% of respondents had no education. Out of those respondents with no education, 68% were female. 85% has undertaken further studies in Australia.

Living arrangements

The majority (65%) rent privately followed by 23% living with family.

Employment Status

There were higher rates of women employed part-time than men. There were higher proportions of those who arrived prior to 2000 in some type of employment with an average of 89% in employment, compared to 42.5% for those who arrived in 2000 and after.

Summary

There were a slightly higher proportion of females than males who were unemployed. Youth and new arrivals are experiencing high rates of unemployment.

Information Needs

The top 5 areas that people required further information were bringing out your family, Centrelink, Higher Education Medicare and conflict with children

People approach family the most followed by the Sierra Leone Community Worker to get information.

Focus Group and Interview Results

Focus Group – Wagga Wagga

Some of the settlement challenges and issues faced by the community in Wagga Wagga include **limited job opportunities; proposers finding it difficult to juggle between work, study to help relatives settle, inadequate settlement information** and a lack of support structures.

The community suggested a number of areas to help them in their settlement including Community English classes; Settlement information sessions; Social worker; Group counselling and Improving job opportunities.

Phone Interviews

Sixteen people were interviewed with half being long-term residents (arriving in the 1980s) and the other half recent arrivals (2000 onwards). Both groups experienced difficulties in their initial settlement but the key difference in their experiences was their initial support on settlement.

Those arriving in the 1980s received no assistance when they first arrived compared to recent arrivals who received assistance from a number of sources such as MRCs, Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy services and through relatives already in Australia.

Background information about Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone is a small country located in the Western part of Africa, above the equator, bordering The Republic of Guinea and Liberia

Sierra Leone has a population of about 4 million people divided into 4 regions, with the capital Freetown in the western region.

The Refugee Situation in Sierra Leone

The refugee situation in Sierra Leone is caused as a result of the civil war, which started in 1991.

The war caused several hundreds of thousands to become homeless. Many lost the lives of their parents, children, and relatives and loved ones. Most of the towns and villages have been completely wiped out. Most of the people fled to Guinea, as there is also a war in neighboring Liberia.

Sierra Leone is relatively peaceful at the moment. The government and NGOs are trying to rebuild the country. However, there is widespread corruption and mismanagement of international aid. The War Crime Tribunal is still not off the ground yet and as such Sierra Leoneans are skeptical about the prevalent peace.

The cost of living is unbearable for ordinary citizens. Prices of all commodities have risen beyond reach.

Composition of the Sierra Leone Community in NSW

As of 2002, the community totaled just over 300 in NSW. According to DIMIA on-arrival data, there have been 410 arrivals between the 2001 Census and December 2004, representing an increase of over **200%** of the community. This puts the estimate of the community in NSW at approximately 600.

Blacktown MRC's Sierra Leone Community Project

Blacktown MRC started actively working with the Sierra Leone Community through our Small & Emerging Communities Project in 2001. The community has been assisted in a variety of ways through casework, information sessions, encouraging agencies to provide culturally appropriate services and working closely with community associations to enhance community structures.

Suggested strategies for working with the Sierra Leone Community

- Group counselling
- Skills and personal development programs for women
- Parenting skills suitable to Australia.
- Education programs about Sierra Leone culture for young people.
- Budgeting programs for young people to
- Intensive English classes for children.

SECTION 1:

Background to Nar we all yone (this is for all of us)

The Sierra Leone Community is a small but rapidly growing community. In late 2004, the Sierra Leone Refugee Support Group approached Blacktown MRC with the idea to conduct a Household Survey of Sierra Leoneans living in NSW. Given the large influx of the community since the 2001 Census, the aim of the exercise was to gather up-to-date socio-economic and demographic data as well as a snapshot of community needs which would be presented to government services and decision makers to improve programs and services for the community.

In March 2005, representatives from both organizations met to plan a survey and a dissemination strategy to the community.

Aims

- Provide an up-to-date snapshot of demographics of the Sierra Leone community and community needs
- Educate the wider community and government services about the Sierra Leone community
- Provide much-needed data to assist government agencies and decision makers in planning programs and services for the community.

Project Methodology

Quantitative Data - Household Surveys

Design:

A Household Survey was designed to elicit demographic information about the community and was modeled on information contained in the ABS Census.

This included information about:

- Gender
- Sierra Leonean languages spoken
- Age
- Marital status
- Residency
- English proficiency
- Education
- Employment
- Housing
- Information needs

Sierra Leone Community Household Survey and Profile



Data Collection Distribution:

The Project Team administered surveys using the following methods:

- The Sierra Leone Community worker attended meetings of all the Sierra Leone community organizations to explain the project and disseminate surveys.
- Household visits were made to the community in the following areas:
 - Blacktown
 - Merrylands
 - Granville
 - Auburn
 - Bankstown
 - Lakemba
 - Regents Park
- Survey data was collected using phone interviews
- Surveys were distributed at two community social gatherings
- Surveys were distributed at a weekend soccer match of the Sierra Leone Soccer Team
- A field trip was made to Wagga Wagga
- Phone contact was made with the community in the ACT and surveys were sent to families.

In order to eliminate duplication, before all surveys that were administered personally (via home visits, phone and community gatherings), respondents were asked about whether they had seen the survey form.

Survey Reach:

In total 390 Household surveys were completed, 380 for NSW and 10 for the ACT.

Based on ABS 2001 Census statistics and DIMIA on-arrival statistics from the 2001 Census to December 2004, there are approximately 600 Sierra Leoneans living in NSW and 50 living in the ACT.

The survey sample represents over 60% of all Sierra Leoneans in NSW and 20% of those living in the ACT.

Qualitative Data – focus group and phone interviews

In order to obtain more detailed data about specific issues that arose from the survey, 16 phone interviews were held with community members. Members were interviewed based on being in one of two residency categories:

- Longer term settlers (prior to 1990s)
- Recent arrivals (2000 –2005)

Questions were asked about their experiences in initially settling in Australia, the assistance they received, employment and English language issues as well as recreational and information needs.

A focus group was held with the entire community in Wagga Wagga during a field visit in April. The focus group elicited information about settlement issues and challenges for the community.

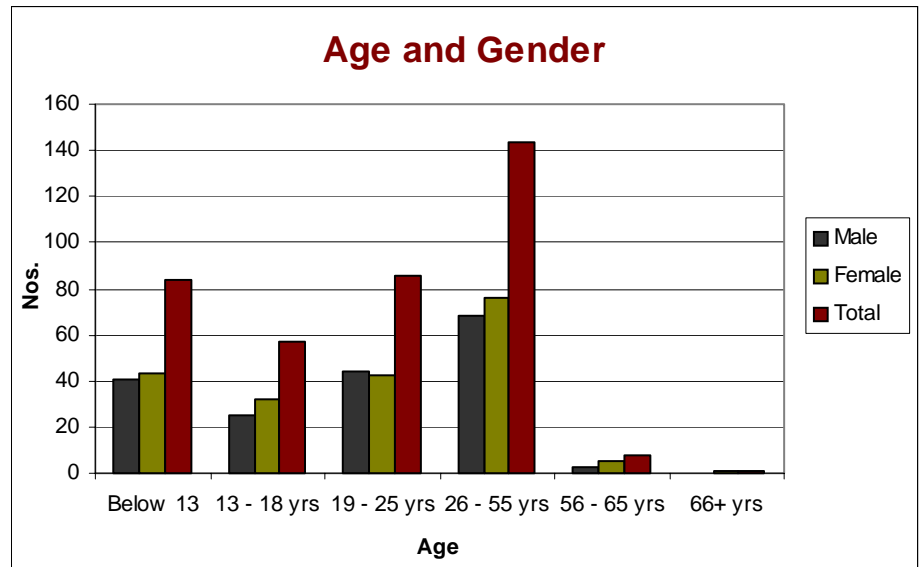
Sierra Leone Community

Age & Gender

There are a slightly higher proportion of females with 53% of respondents being female and 47% male.

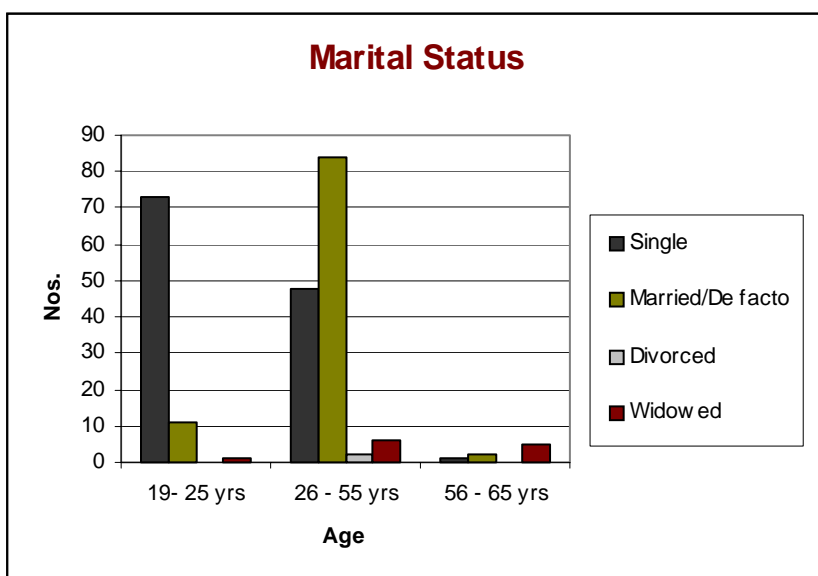
There are a significantly high proportion of children and youth in the community and very few people over 55 years.

There was almost the same number of youth and children under 18 years (144) as people in the 26 – 55 age group (145). Of those aged under 18 years, 22% overall are under 13.



These statistics are based on those people who responded to particular questions in the survey. Those who did not respond are not included in the final figures, therefore, totals may be less than the 390 surveys that were administered in some cases.

Marital Status

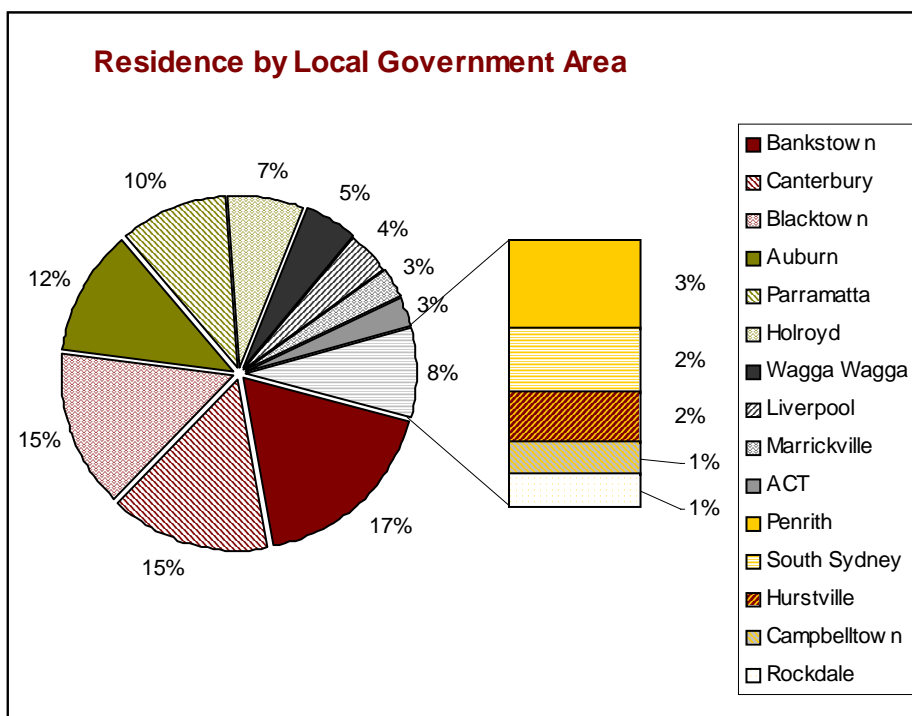
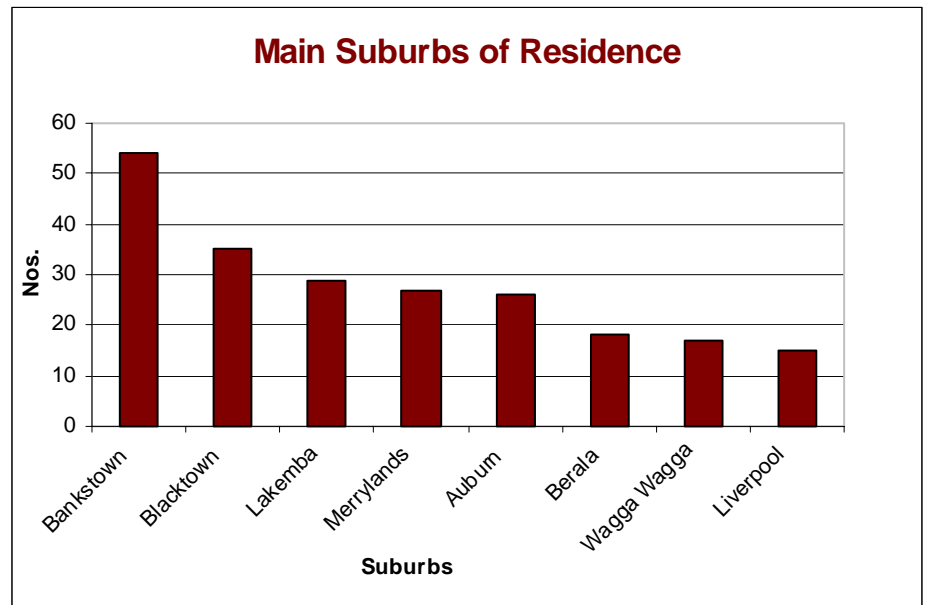


Overall there are a high proportion of respondents who are single. The high overall proportion relates to the fact that 86% of those aged 19 - 25 years are single. In the main adult age group for those aged 26 –55 years, 60% are married with only 34% being single.

Household Survey Results

Where people live

The table shows the main residential suburbs of Sierra Leoneans in NSW. The majority of Sierra Leoneans live in the inner and middle western suburbs of Sydney, often within easy access to public transport.

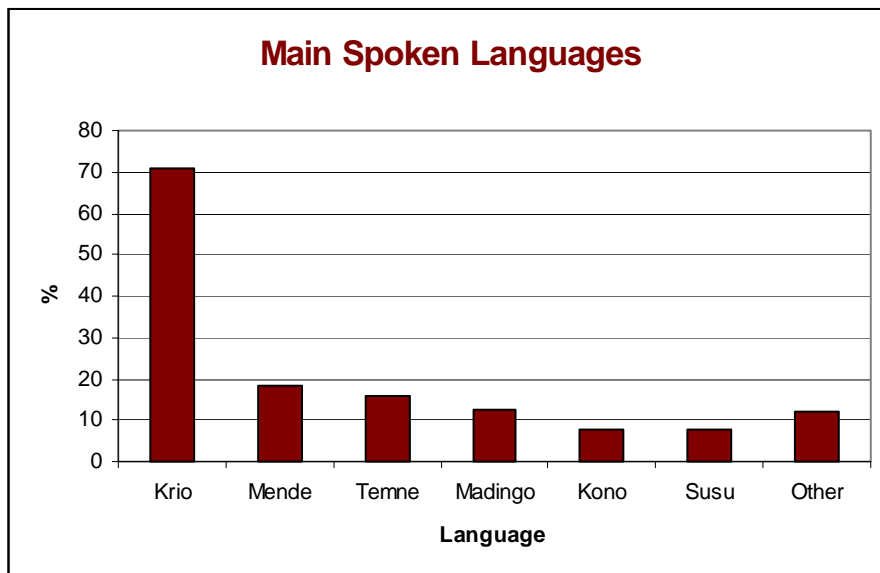


While a large number of LGAs attract Sierra Leonean migrants, the majority live in a belt that stretches westwards from Marrickville to Blacktown in Sydney.

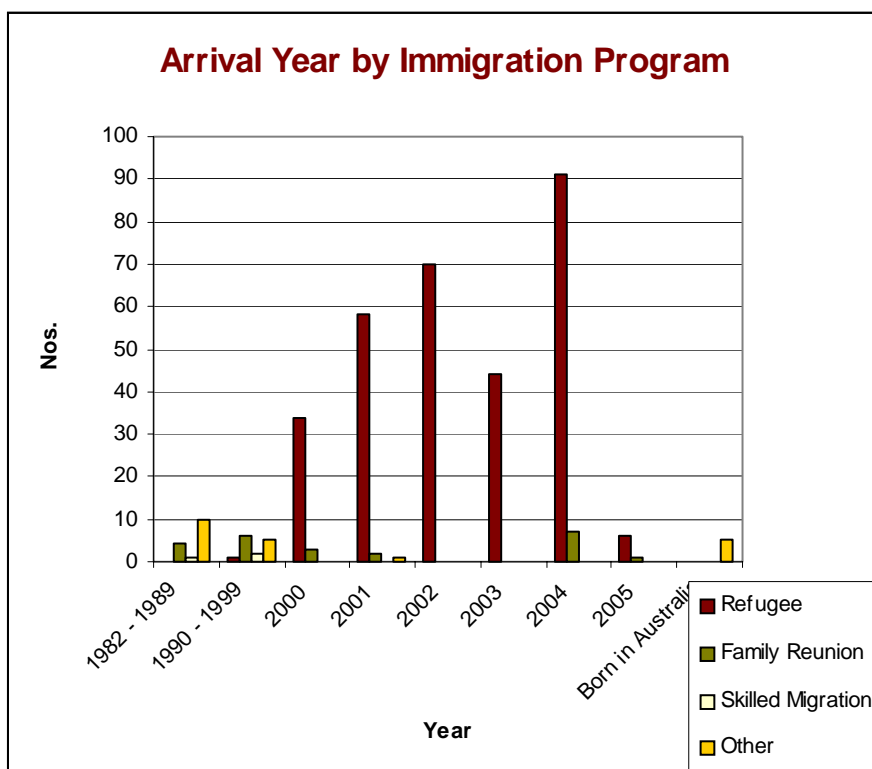
Sierra Leone Community

Sierra Leonean Languages

Other smaller language groups were Fula, Kissi, Limba, Susu and Vai representing less than 5% each of the overall respondents.



Arrival Year & Immigration Program



Although Sierra Leoneans have settled in NSW since the early 1980's, the majority of respondents (84.5%) arrived since 2000 with the highest number arriving in 2004 (26% of overall respondents). It should be noted that it was in 2000 that the Australian Government opened the Refugee and Humanitarian Program to refugees from Sierra Leone. 8% of respondents were born in Australia.

Overall 86% of the Sierra Leone community have arrived under the refugee program with a further 7% arriving under the family reunion program. For those that arrived since 2000, 96% came as refugees. Only one person came as a refugee prior to 2000.

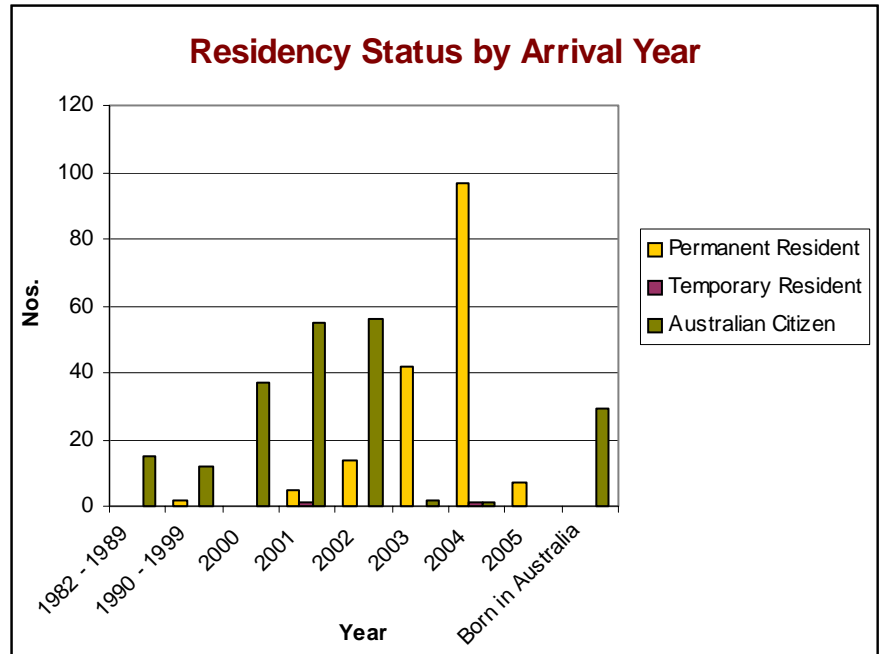
Through the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), a number of Sierra Leonean families have also been resettled in Australia under the Political Asylum program.

Household Survey Results

Residency Status

A large proportion of respondents (56%) are Australian citizens followed by Permanent Residents (43.5%).

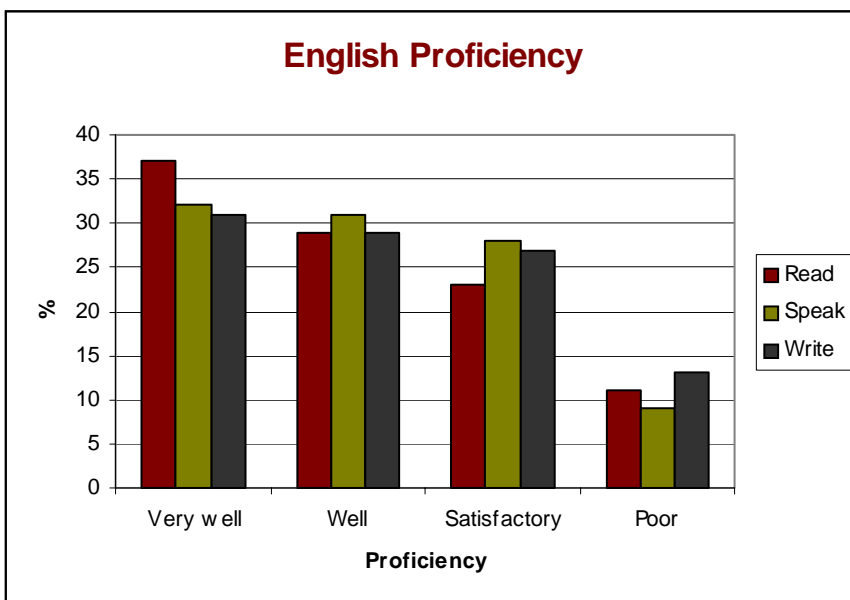
Given that people need to be resident in Australia for more than 2 years to be eligible to apply for citizenship, the proportion of people who are citizens and arrived in Australia in 2002 or earlier is 89%, representing a very high proportion of people in the community who are Australian Citizens.



English Proficiency

There were generally high levels of English language proficiency reported. However, it must be noted that given this was a self-assessment question, there is likely to be some degree of over-estimation of language levels.

This is also borne out of the survey question asking about the need for further English tuition with over 50% still feeling that they need for more English classes.



71.5% have studied English since coming to Australia with 53.5% still feeling that they need more English classes. For those who feel they need more English there are a significantly higher proportion of young people under 18. For those aged 13 – 18, 85% felt they needed more English, compared to only 30% in the 26 – 55 year age group.

This reflects the fact that many young people and children have experienced disrupted schooling as a result of war.

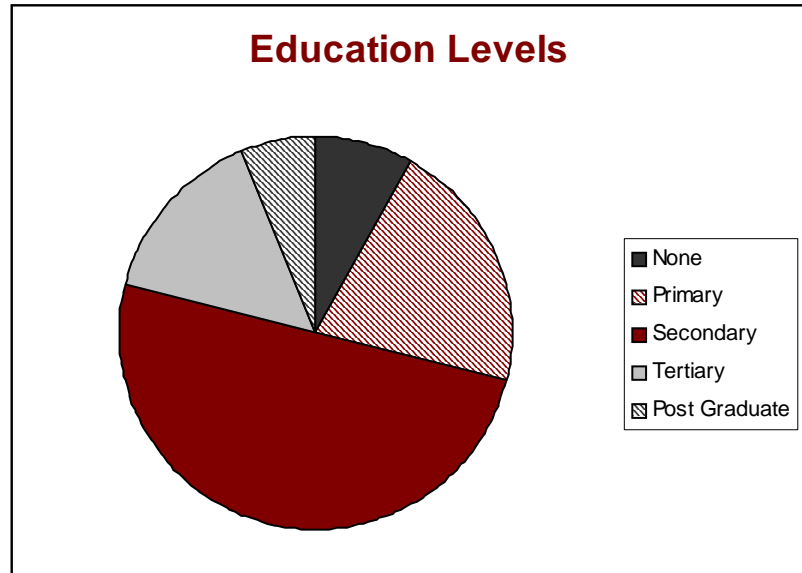
Sierra Leone Community

Education

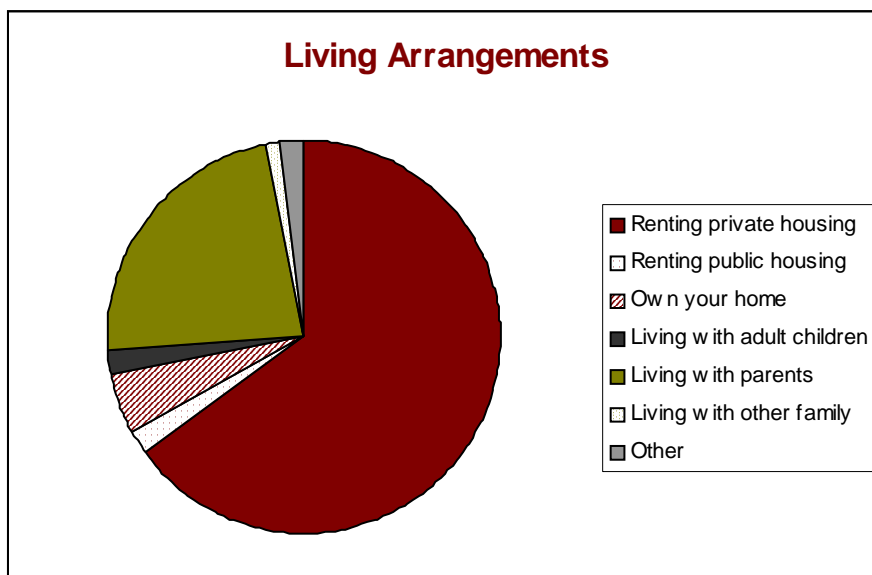
The highest level of education achieved was Secondary (50%). 8% of respondents had no education. Out of those respondents with no education, 68% were female.

For those with post-graduate qualifications, 80% were male. For other levels of education the proportion of male and female respondents were about the same.

85% has undertaken further studies in Australia.



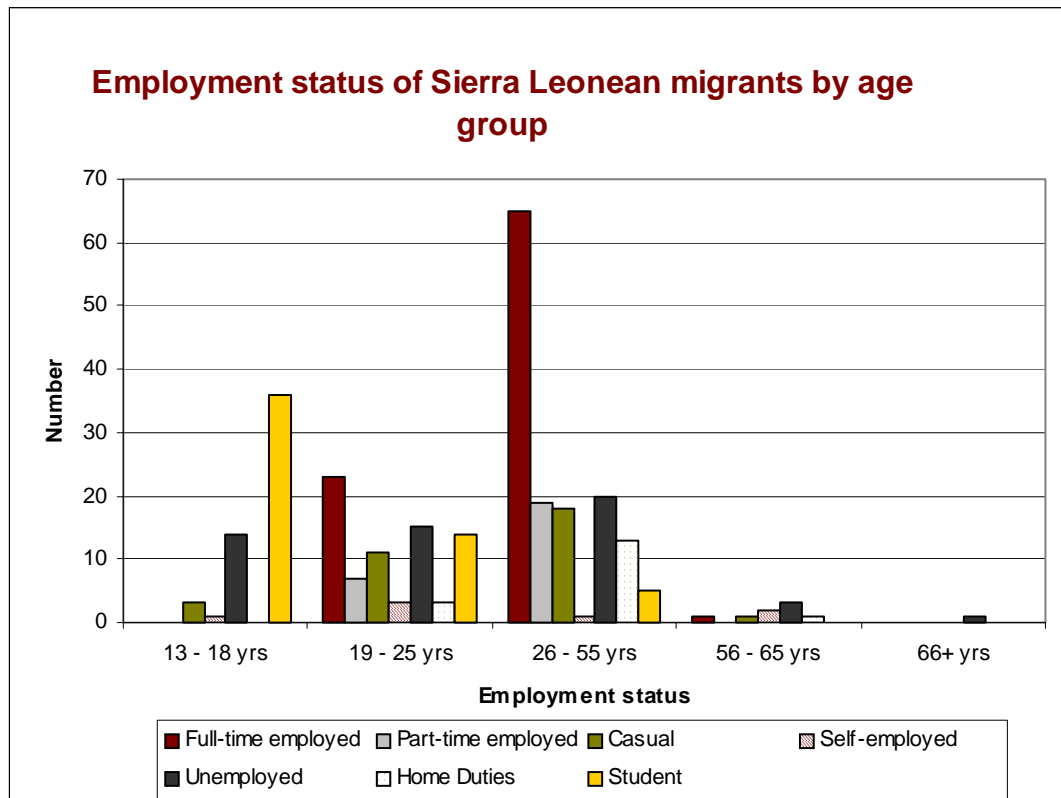
Living Arrangements



The majority (65%) rent privately followed by 23% living with family. Only 5.5% own their own home, however for those who arrived before 2000, 52% owned their own home.

Household Survey Results

Employment Status



Employment

Employment status for the Sierra Leone community is as follows:

- Student (29.5%)
- Full-time employed (28%)
- Unemployed (17%)
- Casual (9%)
- Part-time (8.5%)
- Home Duties (5.5%)
- Self-employed (2%)

There were higher rates of women employed part-time than men. Of those who worked part-time 74% were women. Of those in full-time employment only 38% were women.

There were higher proportions of those who arrived prior to 2000 in some type of employment with an average of 89% in employment, compared to 42.5% for those who arrived in 2000 and after. From this group 33% were studying.

Unemployment

There were a slightly higher proportion of females who were unemployed (58% of total numbers of unemployed). There were high rates of youth unemployment with 20% of those in the 19 – 25 year age group and 26% in the 13 – 18 year age group were

unemployed. Given that the 13 – 18 year age group also includes those who are still at school, these figures are actually higher for those under 18 no longer at school.

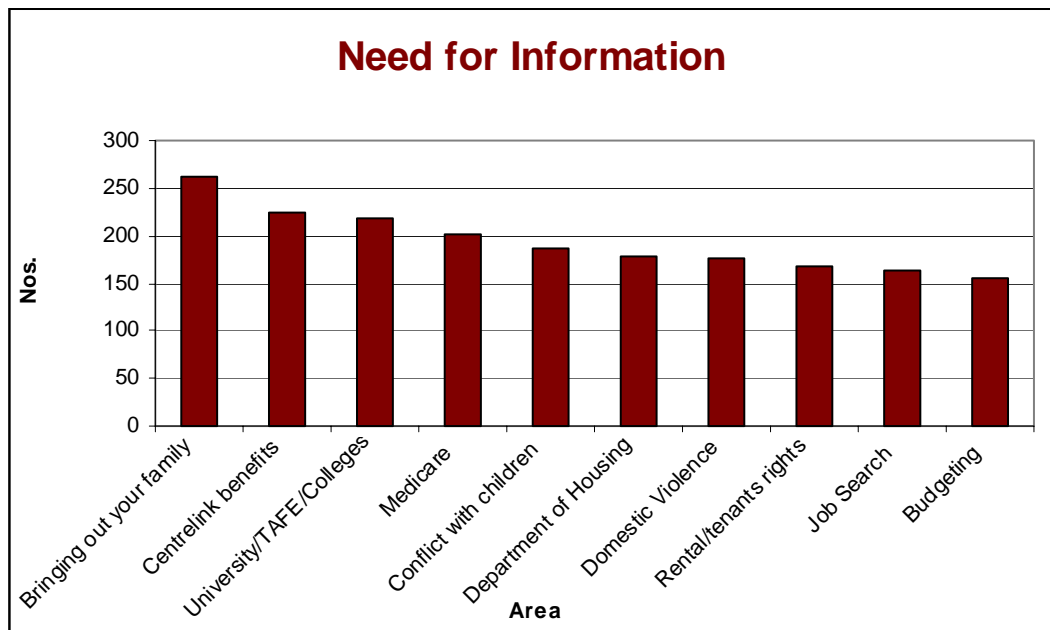
There were higher proportions of new arrivals who were unemployed, 35% of those who arrived in 2004 and 43% of those who arrived in 2005 were unemployed.

Occupation in Sierra Leone

The majority nominated student as their occupation (64%). This was followed by teacher and homemaker (5%) each and a wide variety of occupations.

Sierra Leone Community Household Survey Results

Information Needs



The top 10 areas that people required further information is as follows:

1	Bringing out your family	262
2	Centrelink benefits	225
3	University/TAFE/Colleges	218
4	Medicare	201
5	Conflict with children	186
6	Department of Housing	179
7	Domestic Violence	177
8	Rental/tenants rights	167
9	Job Search	163
10	Budgeting	156

In terms of where people get their information, people approach family the most (70.5%) followed by the Sierra Leone Community Worker (33%).

Focus Group and Interview Results

Focus Group – Wagga Wagga

Members of the Project Team visited Wagga Wagga in April to meet with community members. Since 2002, Wagga Wagga has been the destination of Sierra Leonean refugees.

Initial Settlement Experiences:

Some of the settlement challenges and issues faced by the community in Wagga Wagga include:

- Limited job opportunities
- Stress and misunderstanding between the employed and jobless
- Process of applying for job and requirements in resumes.
- Do not understand the Australian accent
- Need for more hours for English classes
- Proposers find it difficult to juggle between work, study and helping relatives access mainstream services.
- Find difficulty in understanding street directory
- Lack of understanding of the RTA
- Inadequate settlement information
- Lack of support structure.

Suggested Strategies:

The community suggested the following to help them in their settlement:

- Community English classes
- Krio interpreter for RTA
- Settlement information sessions
- Social worker
- Immigration session on proposing relatives
- Group counselling
- Vocational skills and computer courses
- Improvement on job opportunities.

Phone Interviews

Sixteen people were interviewed over the phone to ascertain their experiences in settling. Half of the group were long-term residents arriving in Australia during the 1980s and the other half were recent arrivals from 2000 onwards. While both groups experienced difficulties and disorientation in their initial settlement the key difference in their experiences was the support or lack of support they received when they first arrived. Those arriving in the 1980s received no assistance when they first arrived compared to recent arrivals who received assistance from a number of sources such as MRCs, Anglicare and Settlement Services International (through the Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy) and through relatives already in Australia.

Initial Settlement Experiences:

Some of the settlement challenges and issues faced by those who arrived in the 1980s included:

- immigration
- accommodation
- unemployment
- psychological stress
- emotional stress
- insomnia
- isolation
- racist comments.

Some of the settlement challenges and issues faced by those who arrived from 2000:

- acquiring suitable accommodation and renting
- unemployment
- childcare
- conflict with children
- ignorant of child protection
- ignorant of Australian legal system & law
- racist comments
- family breakdown because of Centrelink allowance

- paying bills, budgeting & credit cards
- centrelink allowances-overpayment
- supporting & proposing relatives overseas
- domestic violence - emotional and economic abuse.

Employment

All respondents were undertaking different work from what they were trained to do in Sierra Leone. This included taxi driving, security, printing and nursing assistant. The main difference between those who were longer-term residents was that they were not seeking other work, while those who were recently arrived were looking for alternative work.

Information needs

The results in the interviews were similar to those recorded in the Household Survey. In addition as this was an open-ended question, people also nominated the Tax System, Legal system and police as additional information they needed.

The main ways that people liked to get information was through the Sierra Leone Radio Program, the Sierra Leone Community newsletter and meetings of Sierra Leone community organisations.

Comparison of focus group and phone interviews

There were many similarities experienced by those in Wagga Wagga to those in Sydney in terms of initial settlement experiences. The key difference reported by respondents in Wagga Wagga was the lack of support services to assist them in their initial settlement. The response from those in Wagga Wagga was more similar to those who had arrived in Sydney in the 1980s.

SECTION 2:

Guide to the Sierra Leone Community

Background information about Sierra Leone

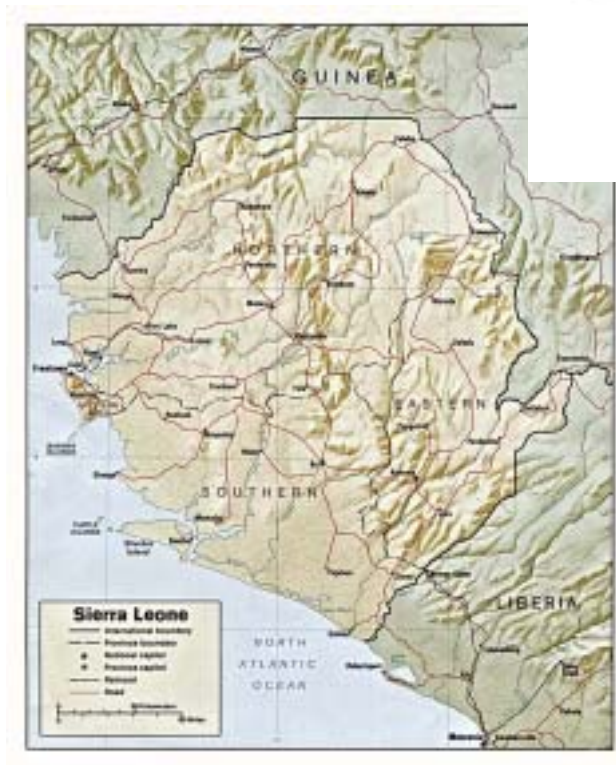
Sierra Leone is a small country located in the Western part of Africa, above the equator, bordering The Republic of Guinea and Liberia.

Sierra Leone has a population of about 4 million people divided into 4 regions, with the capital Freetown in the western region.

Originally, there were 16 different tribes in Sierra Leone. The three larger tribes are Mende, Temne and Creoles. The main languages are Krio, Temne, Mende and English. The official language is English. Majority of the people speak Krio.

There are two main religions in Sierra Leone- Islam 45%, Christianity 40% and 5% Animists.

Despite different places of worship there are no religious conflicts in Sierra Leone. In one way or other every one is related to another.



Social structure

- Traditional practices around dress, food, birth, marriage, death and family relationships are affected both by Islam and Christianity.
- There is no welfare system like Australia. Welfare depends entirely on the extended family and community.
- Family members or elders settle disputes, give advice and do counseling in the communities. The churches assist the poor and needy.
- In Sierra Leone, the Western concept of nuclear family is virtually absent in traditional homes and even in the homes of the elites.
- Familial relationships at most times extend outside blood relationships. People born in the same town or village regard themselves as brothers and sisters.



The Refugee Situation in Sierra Leone

The refugee situation in Sierra Leone is caused as a result of the civil war, which started in 1991.

The war caused several hundreds of thousands to become homeless. Many lost the lives of their parents, children, and relatives and loved ones. Most of the towns and villages have been completely wiped out.

Most of the people fled to Guinea, as there is also a war in neighboring Liberia.

Nothing can describe the horror that the people of Sierra Leone faced during series of rebel uprisings in the late 1990s. Militia units marched through the country mercilessly hacking off the arms, feet, ears and lips of victims as young as 3 or 4 years and wide spread and systematic use of rape and other sexual violence.

Sierra Leone is relatively peaceful at the moment. The government and NGOs are trying to rebuild the country. However, there is widespread corruption and mismanagement of international aid. Already, former combatants are dissatisfied with the slow process of social reintegration.

According to some Sierra Leone media reports on the internet, freedom of expression is again being suppressed as one journalist has been jailed for allegedly reporting action taken by the government during the student strike.

The War Crime Tribunal is still not off the ground yet and as such Sierra Leoneans are skeptical about the prevalent peace. Fighters from Liberia have crossed over with their weapons into Sierra Leone and civilians feel insecure because it reminds them about the past.

Supporters of the leaders of the local militia and military have threatened to cause an uprising if war crime charges against their leaders are not dropped. The cost of living is unbearable for ordinary citizens. Prices of all commodities have risen beyond reach.

The International Crisis Group in its recent newsletter warns that Guinea is a time bomb if the present Government of Lansana Conteh insists on staying in power, even though it has almost ceased to provide services. It reports that in 2004 alone there were isolated uprisings in eight towns and cities in all the regions of the country.

This puts Sierra Leonean refugees, once again as in 2001, in a state of dilemma since they cannot go back to their country due to unstable peace and being in a situation of real economic hardship with a possibility of facing another conflict in the country of refuge.



Composition of the Sierra Leone Community in NSW

The Sierra Leonean community is a small and emerging community in NSW, with significant numbers coming to Australia under the Refugee Program since 2000. As of 2002, the community totaled just over 300 in NSW, with the majority of people living in the Sydney local government areas of Bansktown, Canterbury, Auburn and Blacktown.

Area	2001
NSW	203
Main areas of residence in NSW	
Canterbury	49
Bankstown	30
Parramatta	20
Blacktown	19

According to DIMIA on-arrival data, there have been 410 arrivals between the 2001 Census and December 2004, representing an increase of over 200% of the community.

This puts the estimate of the community in NSW at approximately 600.

The main LGAs of residence are Canterbury, Parramatta, Blacktown and Bankstown.

Suggested strategies for working with the Sierra Leone Community

- Although the concept of counselling is unfamiliar, majority of the Sierra Leonean people have a need for it as they are victims of war and have experienced immense trauma. Group counselling may provide a better option to work with people.
- Women need skills and personal development programs to boost their confidence and self-esteem.
- Parents need to explore and understand the Australian culture and parenting skills suitable to the new country.
- Education programs about Sierra Leone culture for young people.
- Programs for young people to learn about budgeting
- School going children need intensive English classes in order for them to participate fully in the mainstream Australian education system.

Blacktown MRC's Sierra Leone Community Project

Blacktown MRC started actively working with the Sierra Leone Community through our Small & Emerging Communities Project in 2001 and in 2003 was successful in receiving a dedicated Sierra Leone Community Worker position as part of the Project. The community has been assisted in a variety of ways through:

- Provision of casework
- Disseminating information and holding information sessions
- Encouraging government and non-government agencies to provide appropriate services
- Working closely with community groups and associations to enhance community structures and social support networks.

Some of the activities that have been organised include:

- Setting up of a Community Advisory Committee for the project with representation from all organisations in the community
- Assistance in establishment of Sierra Leone Community Radio Stations on Radio Skid Row
- Two Camps organised for Sierra Leonean women and girls on Female Genital Mutilation and Settlement Services in partnership with Sydney West Multicultural Health Unit
- Establishment of first Sierra Leone Community Newsletter auspiced by Blacktown MRC
- Family Harmony session workshops for the community
- Nine Healthy Women Session workshops
- Domestic Violence information sessions
- Information sessions on immigration & processing of application for Humanitarian visa
- Seminar on Australian Law
- Community Consultation Meetings
- Assisting Sierra Leonean community organisations in applying for funding and finding community meeting spaces
- Information session on immunization and the use of household detergents
- ACL information session over the Sierra Leone Radio Program
- Information session on the Rights and Responsibilities of Assistant in Nursing
- Information session on Australian school system
- Information session on Centrelink
- Facilitated establishment of Sierra Leone Cultural Dance Group
- Information Session on Housing and Tenants/Rentals rights
- Information Session on Free Health assessment for newly arrived refugees on local radio
- Working with Community Arts workers in Arts project

Sierra Leone Refugee Support Group

The Sierra Leone Refugee Support Group (SLRSG) was formed in July 2003 as a result of a consultation with the Northern Beaches Refugee Sanctuary (NBRSS). NBRSS helped in the setting up of the Sudanese Travel Loans Scheme and have been assisting them with no-interest loans to Proposers for airfares for family members who have visas to travel to Australia.

Using the Sudanese model, we were able to set up a Sierra Leone Refugee Travel Loans Scheme as a subsidiary body of the Group. The SLRSG became incorporated in October 2004 in order to fundraise and help build up the loans scheme and develop community development projects in order to make the resettlement process a smooth and easy one.

Aims and Objectives

- To establish and operate an interest free travel loan scheme for refugees from camps to Australia
- To liaise with other service providers to meet the settlement needs of Sierra Leonean refugees
- To provide tutorial and academic support to needy refugees.
- To provide teaching services in Sierra Leone community languages.
- To facilitate the development of sports.

Current projects include a Volunteer Community Worker and a Homework Support Program. Future plans include the establishment of a Sierra Leone Community Language School and using sports and recreational activities as trauma healing.

How to access the community

- The community can be contacted on community radio on Radio Skidrow 88.9FM (every Saturday 7-9pm). Contact is Edison Yongai.
- There is Sierra Leone Community Newsletter, produced by Blacktown MRC.
- The community gathers at church in Granville High School on Sundays.
- The Sierra Leoneans get together on Sundays (4-6pm) to play soccer at Tasker Park in Canterbury.

Contacts for Sierra Leone Community

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Sierra Leone Refugee
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Sierra Leone Women Wan
Word INC
Fatmata Mansaray

Friends of Sierra Leone Inc.
Mabel Sourie

Sierra Leone Association Inc
Mohamed Kondeh

Sierra Unite
Murray Kanneh

Sierra Leone Youth Group
Muniatu Kanneh

Sierra Leone Cultural Dance
Group
Bondu Allieu

Please note: As phone
numbers change please
contact Bintu Kamara at
Blacktown MRC for up-to-
date contact details.

