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## MEDIA RELEASE

20 June 2013

## **World Refugee Day**

On World Refugee Day, The Salvation Army Humanitarian Mission Services reaffirms its commitment to providing care and support for asylum seekers currently awaiting processing in the Nauru and Manus Island offshore processing facilities.

The Salvation Army has dedicated staff working in frontline positions with asylum seekers in Nauru and Manus Island Regional Processing Centres and is deeply committed to this mission of caring for asylum seekers by providing emotional support, humanitarian assistance and general education and recreation programs.

Sharon Callister, Chief Executive Officer for The Salvation Army Humanitarian Mission Services said, "The Salvation Army remains strongly committed to serving vulnerable asylum seekers, however long they remain in Nauru and Manus Island Regional Processing Centres."

"The Salvation Army is on record for its opposition to offshore processing. However, whilst this policy is in place our mission remains to provide the necessary humanitarian support for the people in our care," she said.

The Salvation Army also provides practical assistance to asylum seekers in the community, visits and supports asylum seekers in mainland detention centres and provides free immigration and legal advice to asylum seekers and others in Australia. The Salvation Army has also conducted holiday programs for families and children in mainland detention centres and is a contracted provider of Community Detention, supporting vulnerable asylum seekers placed in the community with housing and casework services.

The Salvation Army is contracted by the Government of Australia to provide humanitarian support services at the regional processing centres in Nauru and Manus Island.

## **ENDS**

## For further information or media enquiries please contact:

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