

Project SafeCom Inc. - Information Sheet 12

Project mandate and direction

NARROGIN WA, OCTOBER 2003 - While Project SafeCom is set up as a community development project, aimed at establishing a generic open sustainable technology training and learning farm community - and as such an educational institution - its steering committee determines and endorses its active and operational directions (for example, focusing on social justice issues relating to refugees and asylum seekers) at the start of every financial year.

FROM THE CONSTITUTION: - The vision of Project SafeCom is laid out in the constitution as "*a safe community' for people of any for people of any race, gender, creed or nationality, who are displaced as a result of Wars or Political, Social, Climatological, Ecological and Geological upheaval and/or Disaster; and for other users as and when appropriate.*"

This structure enables Project SafeCom to operate and develop also beyond refugee issues if appropriate and if directed to do so by the steering committee. Project SafeCom was incorporated in December 2001 as a response to the Howard policies and shift in direction in government treatment of refugees. It has its own Australian Business Number and it is currently seeking tax-free status and tax-deductibility from the ATO for donations and gifts as an educational institution.

WEBSITE - The Project SafeCom website is a popular resource for information about refugee issues since the "Tampa election". More than 105 new and returning visitors use the website each day - grown from about 65 per day in the last 5 months. There are about 150 pages on the website, most of them in the refugee section.

The Library and Information Service of Western Australia has listed the Project SafeCom website as "a website of cultural and historical significance in Western Australia" and Project SafeCom is listed in the Western Australian Multicultural Services Directory.

Networking around Australia

There are about 70 lists, either at Yahoo!Groups or at topica.com, established by Australian refugee groups. Project SafeCom is the only group in Australia who posts messages and contributes to debate and discussion on all these groups and lists.

Using a specially designed program by refugee activists - originally designed to exert email pressure on MP's and Senators, it's called "Senator Slapper" - Project SafeCom's occasional notifications and news alerts reach an estimated 12,000 people who subscribe to all these groups.

NEWSLETTER - The (usually daily) Refugee News and Updates newsletter at <http://www.topica.com/lists/safecom/read/> is read by about 335 subscribers (October 2003). Journalists from Australia as well as Malaysia, Singapore, students and staff from Universities, activists, friends of refugees, NGO's and government department representatives subscribe to this free service.

SUPPORTERS - There are about 4000 people in the Project SafeCom database, that is, people who have written to Project SafeCom, who have sent a comment via the website form or asked a question, asked for contacts so they could write to detainees, have purchased a product from the shop at <http://www.safecom.org/products.htm> or who have financially supported Project SafeCom.

MEMBERS - In October 2003 Project SafeCom's association had about 70 registered members in many places - in Western Australia, Queensland, South Australia, the Northern Territory, Victoria and New South Wales - but also in Sweden and Dallas, USA. Project SafeCom employs its full-time volunteer coordinator - working from its WA based operations office - on a full-time basis.

Project SafeCom Inc. P.O. Box 364, Narrogin WA - Phone 041 70 90 130
Email: admin@safecom.org - web: <http://www.safecom.org/refugees.htm>

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Membership application form

..... (full names)

..... (postal address)

.....

Contact numbers: home.....work.....fax.....

Email address (please write clearly):

- I wish to apply for membership of Project SafeCom, Inc.

I enclose my subscription of \$20.00 for membership until 30 -06-2004 OR*

my subscription of \$35.00 or till 30 June 2005 (tick one box only) *.

* (minimum membership fees are \$20.00 for one financial year **plus** an additional \$5.00 for every preceding quarter)

- I declare that I support all Objectives and Purposes of Project SafeCom Inc., and I am aware that this support is a condition of my Membership (see summary on reverse).

Signed.....Date.....

ONLY complete the information below if you are completing this Application Form in the presence of a current Member of Project SafeCom, Inc. If you have not been nominated, the Project Committee will complete this section. We may contact you to verify this application.

Nominated by:

Signed.....Date.....

Seconded by:.....

Signed.....Date.....

Send this form, together with your payment to Project SafeCom, P.O. Box 364, Narrogin, Western Australia 6312. Cheques payable to Project SafeCom Inc., or you can transfer your funds directly into our account: Bendigo Community Bank Kulin BSB: 633-000 | Account name Project SafeCom Inc. Account number: 11564 3900.

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