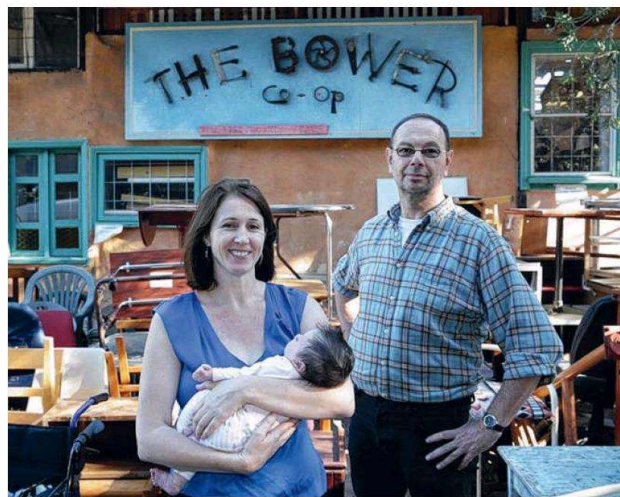


MARRICKVILLE



Mums 4 Refugees' Tara Crisp with baby Maya and The Bower's general manager Guido Verbist. Picture: Craig Wilson

Groups help refugees to feel at home

Providing furniture and skills

Bryant Hevesi

A CROWD-FUNDING campaign has been launched in a bid to raise \$10,000 to help asylum seekers buy household furniture.

The House for Home project, a partnership between Marrickville's The Bower Reuse and Repair Centre and the Mums 4 Refugees group, is also designed to assist asylum seekers attend workshops to learn carpentry and furniture repair skills.

"The project is exciting because it brings The Bower and Mums 4 Refugees together in an innovative way that supports the aims of both organisations," Mums 4 Refugees' Tara Crisp said.

"It provides quality goods to some of the most disadvantaged members of our society and it reduces landfill and supports the environmental aims of an inner west institution.

"Most importantly, it helps refugees and asylum seekers turn their house into a home, the first step to setting up a new life in a new land.

"Working together, we hope to welcome asylum

seekers and refugees and give them the chance to thrive within our community."

Ms Crisp said Mums 4 Refugees is a group of passionate, caring and creative mums working towards an Australia that is fair, just and inclusive, and which treats asylum seekers and refugees with dignity and compassion.

The group formed in late 2014 and has more than 17,000 Facebook "likers" and about 2000 members across Australia.

The Bower's general manager Guido Verbist said he welcomed the chance to directly support asylum seekers and refugees.

"Our aim is to stop usable items from going to landfill and to provide quality furniture at affordable prices for disadvantaged communities," Mr Verbist said.

"What will make the House to Home project function is our ability to collect furniture donations and then deliver it using our own truck."

 **The campaign can be found at startsomegood.com/fromhousetohome**

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