



Final report on the Community Response to the Covid-19 Emergency – 19th of October 2020

THE NUMBERS

The requests received

The project Community Response to the Covid-19 Emergency, which began on the 6th of April 2020, officially ended on the 19th of October 2020 because of the depletion of the funds and the reduction in requests for support.

Over the last 6 months the flow of request for support has moved along with the advancement of the crisis, with peaks registered in May, during the harshest period of the first lockdown, and in July, after the announcement of the second lockdown.

The total number of people who have registered their requests via an online form and have been contacted via phone is **239**.

Of the **239** people who have registered with the project and have been contacted by the volunteers of Nomit, **171** reside in Victoria, **27** in NSW, **15** in WA, **21** in QLD, **3** in SA and **2** in TAS. From July 2020 on, all the new requests for assistance have come from people residing in Victoria: this provides evidence of how their circumstances have been affected for the worse by the second lockdown.

Regarding the statistical breakdown in term of visas, **111** of the people requesting support are Working Holiday Makers, **91** hold a student visa, **31** a partner or skilled visa, **4** of them were here on a tourist visa. Towards the end of August both a Permanent Resident and a dual (Australian and Italian) citizen reached out asking for support. The situation of the dual citizen was assessed as particularly critical and required an emergency intervention by the Board of Nomit, and it is extensively explained in a dedicated report attached.

The funds redistributed to the community

In the period between the 14th of April, when the first donation was paid and the 19th of October, when the project officially ended, a total of **211** Italians with temporary visas have received economic support.

A total of **212** Lampo (\$100 donations) have been distributed.

The total number of Mano, a free loan scheme, assigned starting from the 1st of May until the 19th of October, is equal to **76**. In the face of the complexity of the Covid19 crisis, Mano has proved itself as an appropriate instrument, demonstrated by the honesty of the recipients and to the community spirit which it has generated.

NOMIT

1/509 St Kilda Road, Melbourne Vic. 3004


www.nomit.com.au

Not-for-profit organisation

Reg. number A0059345

ABN 92 106 088 918

✉ info@nomit.com.au

 facebook.com/nomitnetwork

 twitter.com/nomitnetwork

 nomit.network



To summarize, as at the 19th of October, **\$60,588** has been distributed to the community, of which **\$21,200** in the form of **212** \$100 Lampo donations and **\$38,000** through the **76** payments via the Free Loan Scheme called Mano. A special Mano contribution of **\$1,388** was paid to assist the dual citizen mentioned above, on the 25th of September. On top of these funds redistributed to the community, **\$6,000** has been used to manage the project, and another **\$853** has been used for reimbursements and software subscriptions (JotForm and Zoom). This brings the total funds spent to **\$67,441**, equal to the amount of donations. The financial statement of donations and expenditures is available in the quantitative attachment to this report.

FINAL ANALYSIS

An evaluation of the Community Response to the Covid-19 Emergency project

Nomit would like to express a sincere thank you to the many who donated in the Radiothon of Easter Monday, to the Father Atanasio Gonelli Charitable Fund which has been an important partner in providing support to many temporary visa holders, to Co.as.It. of Melbourne, whose initial contribution made the project begin, to the Inas-Cisl and Acli Patronati and to the ICCI for signing the initial Operational Protocol, and to Franco Papandrea, member of the CGIE and appointed external auditor of the project.

Thanks to the donations and to the institutional support the Community Response to the Covid-19 Emergency project has been able to guarantee support to many Italians on a temporary visa during the lockdown. Thanks to the economic contributions and to the commitment of the volunteers of Nomit we can now be proud of the outcomes of this project.

Over a period of six months, through the Community Response to the Covid-19 Emergency project, Nomit has provided financial, psychological and information support to almost 250 Italians living in Australia with a temporary visa. It is an outstanding result of the project to have been able to deliver over \$60,000 in financial support packages to people struggling due to the Covid19 crisis. Likewise, it is an important outcome of the project to have built a network of support and to have listened to the problems Italian citizens experienced in Australia, and to have established trustworthy relationships to lay the foundations of a new community of mobile citizens based on belonging and solidarity.

At the same time, it is hard to affirm the success of this community initiative while looking at the hardship experienced by the over 200 Italian recipients of the project; knowing the suffering the Covid19 crisis has caused to the temporary migrants in Australia; being aware of the unfair and unequal treatment migrants are subject to all over the world. The efforts of Nomit are nothing but a few drops in an ocean of indifference about migrants' rights. By running this project for the last six

NOMIT

1/509 St Kilda Road, Melbourne Vic. 3004


www.nomit.com.au

Not-for-profit organisation


Reg. number A0059345

ABN 92 106 088 918

✉ info@nomit.com.au

 facebook.com/nomitnetwork

 twitter.com/nomitnetwork

 nomit.network



months the volunteers of Nomit have become aware of what it means to tangibly take responsibility for protecting migrants' rights and requests, that concerns all of us as individuals, citizen of the world, and as community.

As we have often done over the last months, on behalf of the community Nomit represents, we ask all levels of Australian Government and the Italian institutions in Australia to listen to the needs of migrants and to take effective actions towards an improvement of their rights and opportunities.

The Mano scheme

Mano, a free \$500 loan scheme delivered to 76 Italians with temporary visas in Australia since the 1st of May 2020, has been an instrument appropriate to the circumstances of the people who have requested it.

As a matter of fact, the recipients of Mano have often lived in Australia for years, maintaining themselves, and it is only owing to the Covid19 restrictions that they found themselves in economic difficulty and this crisis has seen them having to cope with significant uncertainty about their future plans in Australia. Many of them postponed requesting support as long as they could and found it hard to ask for help. This is why Mano has worked and indeed many of the recipients have understood the values which underpin it: a solidarity mechanism, which allows the recipients to help someone else without feeling the pressure of a debt but rather feeling involved in community circularity. Everyone, especially temporary migrants, could face hard times and uncertainties: Mano is a temporary support to overcome this period and to feel involved in a community network, even more necessary for those who live far from their countries and their families.

A look to the future

The success of Mano can be measured by looking at the number of people who benefit from it, by the efficiency of the assessment and approval mechanism and, above all, due to the outcome in terms of a sense of community belonging. This is an imminent step towards the future for Nomit, as we enter the next stage in the pandemic. The effects of the social and economic crisis continues to be felt; this has had and will continue to have a significant impact on temporary migrants.

Nomit will continue its commitment to strengthen its role in Melbourne and Victorian society, its partnership with institutions and advocacy groups; moreover, Nomit will continue to represent the voice of the migrant community in the social debate.

A series of Nomit Action Groups, started in August 2020, is a first spin-off of Nomit's latest commitment and a way to strengthen the ties of an inclusive and effective network. We are pleased to report that these online events have involved some recipients of the Nomit community support pro-

NOMIT

1/509 St Kilda Road, Melbourne Vic. 3004


www.nomit.com.au

Not-for-profit organisation

Reg. number A0059345

ABN 92 106 088 918

✉ info@nomit.com.au

 facebook.com/nomitnetwork

 twitter.com/nomitnetwork

 nomit.network



ject together with members of the Italian institutions abroad, experts, union organizers and members of institutions advocating for migrants' rights in Australia and in Italy. Nomit is committed to shaping new pathways to community involvement for temporary migrants residing in Australia.

NOMIT

1/509 St Kilda Road, Melbourne Vic. 3004


www.nomit.com.au

Not-for-profit organisation


Reg. number A0059345

ABN 92 106 088 918

✉ info@nomit.com.au

 facebook.com/nomitnetwork

 twitter.com/nomitnetwork

 nomit.network
