

## Senators and MPs Attend Refugee Ball 2010

*By Janset Berzeg & Richard Walker*



**N**early 300 guests, from community leaders to politicians, advocates, volunteers and supporters, enjoyed a variety of performances and entertainment at the second Refugee Ball, a fund-raising event organised by Friends of STARTTS.

Award-winning comedian David Smiedt hosted the evening, a night of dancing, celebration, culture and performances, from groups like the Burundian Community Choir, Minority Tradition, and the Cuban band JJ Son.

The event was an opportunity for people to show their support for STARTTS and for refugees in NSW. The success of activities during the evening, such as the trivia, the silent auction, the raffle and pledge auction, showed the incredible support of those present for refugees and the generosity of the people who work with them.

VIP guests included Senator Kate Lundy, the Hon. Carmel Tebbutt MP, Senator Sarah Hanson-Young, the Hon. Scott Morrison MP and the Hon. John Murphy MP, all of whom were vigorous bidders at the charity auction.

Supporters of the night included ACL, Serco, NSW Police, Constellation Wines, the Australian League of Immigration Volunteers (ALIV), the Australian Tamil Congress, and STARTTS.

The event was organised by a dedicated group of volunteers, lead by Alex Lee and Brendan Quek.

STARTTS and Friends of STARTTS deeply thank all the volunteers, the table sponsors, prize sponsors and guests for sharing this enjoyable and meaningful night with us.

Close to \$10,000 was raised, all of which went towards the many STARTTS programs running in NSW and ensuring that STARTTS can continue to make the challenges experienced by refugees less overwhelming. **R**