



Refugee Council
of Australia

Refugee Welcome Zones

an initiative of the Refugee Council of Australia

Background

As the peak representative body in Australia working with and for refugee communities and the agencies that support them, the aim of the Refugee Council is to promote humane, flexible and constructive policies towards refugees, asylum seekers and displaced persons. In recent times a number of local government Councils throughout Australia have demonstrated compassion for refugees and asylum seekers through a variety of community activities, events and within council policy. The Refugee Council of Australia would like to take this opportunity to publicly acknowledge the work of local government in this important area of community service and promoting community harmony. Since the end of the Second World War, Australia has become home to over 600,000 refugees and we have a proud history of settling refugees from all over the world who have made an enormous contribution to our economic, social and cultural well-being.

The Refugee Welcome Zone

This Declaration is simply a commitment in spirit to welcoming refugees into our community, upholding the human rights of refugees, demonstrating compassion for refugees and enhancing cultural and religious diversity in our community. This public commitment is also an acknowledgment of the tremendous contributions refugees have made to Australian society in the fields of medicine, science, engineering, sport, education and the arts. By making this Declaration it is hoped that local government will be encouraged in their continuing efforts to support the men, women and children who make the difficult journey to Australia to seek our protection.

In addition to signing the Declaration, many Local Councils have initiated new policy relating to refugees and asylum seekers; some have funded community based projects that support refugees while others have held public forums and community events. While the Refugee Council of Australia does not stipulate that signatories to the Declaration undertake such activities, any initiatives which provide a positive contribution to the support of refugees and their communities will be welcomed and supported by the Refugee Council of Australia.

Map of Refugee Welcome Zones

Total to date - 63



(Council crest/logo)

The _____ Council,

Declares the Council of _____ a

Refugee Welcome Zone

This Declaration is a Commitment in Spirit to

Welcoming refugees into our community,

Upholding the Human Rights of refugees,

Demonstrating Compassion for refugees and

Enhancing cultural and religious Diversity in our community.

[name and title of signatory]

Date: _____

This Declaration is proudly supported and endorsed by the



**Refugee Council
of Australia**

The Refugee Council of Australia is a peak national organisation representing over 250 organisations and individual members. The aim of the Refugee Council is to promote the adoption of flexible, humane and constructive policies toward refugees, asylum seekers and displaced persons by the Australian and other Governments and their communities.