

# Local Government Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum

## Executive Meeting No. 21 – Wednesday 8 June 2022

1-3pm Microsoft Teams

**Chairperson:** Cr Rhonda Garad (*Greater Dandenong*)

**Attendees:** Mayor Jasmine Nguyen (*Brimbank*), Sadia Ali (*Casey*), Cr Susanne Newton (*Darebin*), Cr Susan Rennie (*Darebin*), Shabaz Fattah (*Darebin*), Marek Krol (*Greater Dandenong*), Celia Chang (*Hume*), Mayor, Cr Steve Staikos (*Kingston*), Susan Quach (*Kingston*), Elisabetta Robecchi (*Kingston*), Emma Sampson (*Moreland*), Nelum Buddhadasa (*Moreland*), Mayor, Cr Sophie Wade (*Yarra*), Tara Bewley (*Yarra*).

**Guests:** Mayor, Cr Samantha Byrne (*Moonee Valley*), Daniel Scoullar (*Social Change Projects*).

**Apologies:** Lynley Dumble (*Brimbank*), Wambui Thirimu (*Brimbank*), Renae Buckley (*Casey*), Pradeep Peteti (*Casey*), Mayor Lina Messina (*Darebin*), Cr Gaetano Greco (*Darebin*), Mayor, Cr Jim Memeti (*Greater Dandenong*), Cr Lana Formoso (*Greater Dandenong*), Mayor Peter Hemphill (*Hobsons Bay*), Cr Jonathan Marsden (*Hobsons Bay*), Kristen Cherry (*Hume*), Julie Andrews (*Hume*), Mayor Stuart James (*Monash*), Cr Brian Little (*Monash*), Cr Josh Fergeus (*Monash*), Fee Harrison (*Monash*), Colin Bostock (*Monash*), Pamela Kosij (*Monash*), Mayor Mark Riley (*Moreland*), Petr Svoboda (*Moreland*), Nalika Peiris (*Moreland*), Meghan Hopper (*Moonee Valley*), Emma Patterson (*Moonee Valley*), Cr Gabrielle de Vietri (*Yarra*) & Cristina Del Frate (*Yarra*).

Agenda Item	Discussion Points/Comments	Follow up Actions / Who
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cr Rhonda Garad welcomed all representatives attending and acknowledged Traditional Owners.</li> <li>• Apologies noted.</li> </ul>	
<b>Endorsement of Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Previous minutes moved by Mayor, Cr Steve Staikos (<i>Kingston</i>) and seconded by Mayor, Cr Samantha Byrne (<i>Moonee Valley</i>).</li> </ul>	
<b>Review of Outstanding Action Items</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No outstanding action items.</li> </ul>	

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<b>Update – Mayoral Taskforce</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>New Members</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Conversations about membership currently taking place with Liverpool Council, New Castle Council, Blacktown Council and Sydney Council.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Back Your Neighbour Working Group</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Planning a media release for Refugee Week 2022, to tie together the ALGA delegation, with the broader work of the Mayoral Taskforce and to highlight the two successful motions put forward at ALGA NGA.</li> <li>○ This will also be promoted via Council communication channels.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Back Your Neighbour Campaign Evaluation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was an overall consensus that Social Change Projects was successful with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Re-establishing the Back Your Neighbour campaign</li> <li>○ Changing the narrative around refugee and people seeking asylum</li> <li>○ Securing positive commitments amongst decision-makers for policy change</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Many members believed that the Canberra delegation was one of the major highlights of the campaign and going forward it will be important to continue relationships with key ALP MPs and Senators.</li> <li>• Important to note the positive contribution made by Amnesty International and ASRC during the Canberra delegation, in regard to sending a strong message to parliamentarians about the injustices facing people seeking asylum.</li> <li>• BYN Working Group provided feedback that stories from people seeking asylum were difficult to capture due to the sensitive subject matter and the ethical considerations surrounding it, as well as the risk people faced in sharing their stories. Any future Back Your Neighbour campaigns should be mindful of these challenges.</li> <li>• Any future campaigns should also build in costings re: asking people to give up their time to share stories etc.</li> <li>• Scorecard was developed a little too late in the election campaign and struggled to be well promoted by Councils due to its political nature in ranking federal government parties in order of preference.</li> </ul>	

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<p><b>Plan – First 100 Days</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Refugee Week 2022</b></li> <li>- <b>ALGA National General Assembly</b></li> <li>- <b>Other Activities and Strategies</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Refugee Week 2022</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mayoral Taskforce agreed to support the ASRC's annual World Refugee Day Telethon via social media.</li> <li>○ BYN Working Group to prepare media release tying together ALGA delegation with Refugee Week.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>ALGA National General Assembly</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Taskforce Secretariat has organised a morning tea at the ALGA National General Assembly:  Monday 20 June 10:30-11am Swan Room, Level 1, National Convention Centre, Canberra</li> <li>○ The morning tea will provide an opportunity to introduce non-member Councils to the Mayoral Taskforce and Back Your Neighbour, as well as, reconnect with existing members, especially those from NSW and Tasmania.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Meetings with Federal Government</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Taskforce to coordinate a meeting with Julian Hill MP, Mark Dreyfus MP, Clare O'Neil MP and Andrew Giles MP. Realistically this could take place towards the end of July 2022.</li> <li>○ In preparation for the meeting, worth touching base with Rev Tim Costello and Con Karapanagiotidis from ASRC.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Individual Memberships</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Interest was raised in the meeting about offering individual memberships to Mayors and Councillors whose Councils may be more hostile to joining the Mayoral Taskforce. 'Friends of the Taskforce' could be a new level of membership for individuals.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Option to Engage Social Change Projects for a Longer Duration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Executive expressed interest in re-engaging Social Change Projects to provide campaign expertise for the period of the first 100-days / October mini-budget.</li> <li>○ A proposal by Social Change Projects would firstly have to be prepared for the Executive to consider.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create postcard invitations to the event – Marek (CGD)</li> <li>• Send meeting request – Marek (CGD)</li> <li>• Map the Back Your Neighbour asks against the ALP policy platform in preparation for meetings – Marek</li> <li>• Investigate options in developing fourth level of membership for individuals – Marek</li> <li>• Contact Social Change Projects to prepare a proposal for</li> </ul>

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion Points/Comments</b>	<b>Follow up Actions / Who</b>
<b>Other Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• N/A.</li></ul>	
<b>Next Meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• TBC</li></ul>	
<b>Close</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2pm</li></ul>	