

Local Government Mayoral Taskforce supporting People Seeking Asylum Minutes – Meeting No. 25 – Monday 20th March 2022

1-3pm, Melbourne Town Hall, Portico Room

Chairperson: Mayor Cr Eden Foster (Greater Dandenong Council (CGD))

Attendees:

Pradeep Peteti (Casey), Cr Gaetano Greco (Darebin), Peter Johnstone (CGD), Ann Ly (CGD), Cr Steve Staikos (Kingston), Mayor Cr Hadi Saab (Kingston), Amey Rountree (Monash), Mayor Cr Angelica Panopoulos (Merri-bek), Petr Svoboda (Merri-bek), Emma Sampson (Merri-bek), Ben Pollard (Hobsons Bay), Cr Dr Olivia Ball (Melbourne), Kara Barnett (Melbourne), Sandra Khazam (Port Phillip), Hedeeyeh Saberian (Mornington Peninsula), Cr Susanne Newton (Darebin), Susan Quach (Kingston), Dom Diocera (Geelong), Mayor Cr Ben Ramcharan (Nillumbik), Garry Starr (Canterbury Bankstown), Cr Jim Mason (Geelong), Mary-Ann Robinson (Brimbank) and Cr Anab Mohamud (Yarra).

Apologies:

Shabaz Fattah (Darebin), Cr Mark Riley (Merri-bek), Nelum Buddhadasa (Merri-bek), Tara Bewley (Yarra), Mayor Cr Claudia Nguyen (Yarra), Mayor Cr Joseph Haweii (Hume), Celia Chang (Hume), Geoff Paine (Nillumbik), Cr Jennie Barrera (Wyndham), Dalal Sleiman (Whittlesea), Mayor Cr Bruce Lancashire (Brimbank), Cr Jasmine Nguyen (Brimbank), Wambui Thirimu (Brimbank), Lynley Dumble (Brimbank), Courtney Boi (Casey), Teresa Lawler (Casey), Sadia Ali (Casey), Calum Pattie (Casey), Mayor Cr Julie Williams (Darebin), Cr Rhonda Garad (CGD), Cr Brian Little (Monash), Colin Bostock (Monash), Cristina Del Frate (Yarra), Julie Andrews (Hume), Mayor Cr Des Hudson (Ballarat), Frances Salenga (Ballarat), Nikki Williams (Bendigo), Mayor Cr Andrea Metcalf (Bendigo), Lisa King (Banyule), Cr Peter Castaldo (Banyule), Mayor Cr Tammy Radford (Cardinia), Mayor Cr Sarah Carter (Maribyrnong), Catherine Dwyer (Maribyrnong), Lord Mayor Sally Capp (Melbourne), Deputy Lord Mayor Nicolas Reece (Melbourne), Councillor Roshena Campbell (Melbourne), Cr Jason Chang (Melbourne), Cr Elizabeth Mary Doidge (Melbourne), Cr Davydd Griffiths (Melbourne), Cr Jamal Hakim (Melbourne), Cr Philip Le Liu (Melbourne), Cr Rohan Leppert (Melbourne), Cr Kevin Louey (Melbourne), Jane Wager (Geelong), , Mayor Cr Mark Lane (Whitehorse), Debbie Seddon (Whitehorse), Mayor Cr Heather Cunsolo (Port Phillip), April Wilson (Nillumbik), Chris Munro (Mornington Peninsula), Sally Abbott (Moonee Valley), Celia Rice (Moonee Valley), Cr Rose Iser (Moonee Valley), Meghan Hopper (Moonee Valley), Mayor Cr Susan McIntyre (Wyndham), Liana Thompson (Wyndham), Emily Harris (Bass Coast), Cr Jennifer Anderson (Macedon Ranges), Mayor Cr Annette Death (Macedon Ranges), Mayor Cr Rob Steane (Maroondah), Chris Riseley (Maroondah), Mayor Cr Isabelle Tolhurst (Queenscliffe), Mayor Cr Ian Bye (Wellington), Mayor Cr Tony Briffa (Hobsons Bay) and Cr Jonathon Marsden (Hobsons Bay).

Guests: Deputy Mayor Sylvie Ellsmore (Sydney), Marjorie Tenchavez (Sydney), Holly Corpe (Cumberland) and Saajeda Samaa (Asylum Seeker Resource Centre).

Agenda Item	Action
1. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country Cr Dr Olivia Ball (City of Melbourne) welcomed attendees and acknowledged the traditional owners and custodians of the land.	
2. Endorsement of Minutes of Previous Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of last meeting were endorsed. 	

Agenda Item	Action
<p>3. Review of Taskforce Priorities Members agreed to keep original priorities as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Replace the existing 'Fast Track' system with a single RSD process and an independent, timely and fair merits review. 2) Abolish temporary visas like TPVs and SHEVs and replace them with permanent protection visas and pathways to citizenship for all humanitarian arrivals. 3) Invest resources to urgently clear the backlog of asylum applications and appeals in order to create an efficient system. 4) Provide people seeking asylum access to Medicare, income support, employment support, mental health, NDIS and other vital services. 5) Ensure people seeking asylum have work and study rights, including access to local fees for university and TAFE. 	Chair
<p>4. Governance and Resourcing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What membership arrangements are required? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Proposed membership fee structure for maintaining Taskforce governance and operations– Executive, General and Supporter ○ Suggested buy-in from General and/or Supporter members to join Executive tier ○ General members to become Executive by default after long-standing membership ○ Suggested no membership fee requirement for Supporter members ○ Fourth tier of membership for Councillor Friends • What resourcing arrangements are required? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ At least an additional 0.5 EFT Band 6 (\$57,000-60,000 per annum) Taskforce Administrator ○ Seek philanthropic funding for the Taskforce ○ Taskforce meetings proposed to occur monthly until ALGA and bi-monthly meetings after ALGA. ○ Next meeting in April to decide on membership fee and governance structure. 	Proposed TOR and suggested fee structure to be circulated to members for feedback by the next Taskforce meeting - CGD
<p>5. Prioritize Taskforce Actions for 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the 2 - 4 investments of time, effort and money that will propel the Taskforce purpose forward with the most impact? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Palm Sunday - Sunday 2 April 2023, State Library, Melbourne. All members and supporters welcomed to attend. ○ Council membership recruitment strategy – implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Updating Back Your Neighbour website to link back to CGD's Mayoral Taskforce webpage. ▪ ALGA - 13-16 June 2023 Delegation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taskforce representatives to speak at the morning tea. • Meet with relevant MPs and reconnect with those from 2022 delegation. ▪ Building relationships with peak bodies nationally e.g., MAV post-ALGA Delegation. Email template for inviting new Councils to join to be developed and shared to members to use. ▪ Mayoral Elections in November (Vic) and other States – process for handover to new Mayors around time of elections. 	<p>Palm Sunday event details to be sent to members – CGD.</p> <p>Organise meeting room for morning tea and/or exhibition hall stand at ALGA - CGD.</p>

Agenda Item	Action
6. Next Meeting Friday 21 April 2023, 10-12pm, Online Friday 26 May 2023, 1-3pm, Online	Calendar invitations to be sent - CGD
7. Close	Chair