

City of Yarra Refugee and Asylum Seeker Statement

The Yarra Multicultural Policy and Action Plan includes Refugees and Asylum Seekers and the following statement provides an additional commitment from Council

The City of Yarra encourages the development of a strong, resilient and diverse local community. The Council is proud to work with and support refugees and asylum seekers living in our municipality.

The City of Yarra recognises that people who leave their country due to war and other conflicts have often experienced persecution, trauma and grief and should be treated with dignity and compassion. We also recognise that refugees and asylum seekers have been disenfranchised from their own governments and need support to re-engage with government processes in Australia.

Respect and compassion will be the hallmarks of the City of Yarra's ongoing commitment to assisting refugees and asylum seekers:

- We will engage with our citizens, community groups and local service providers to ensure that refugees and asylum seekers settling in our municipality receive appropriate support to deal with the challenges of living in a new society;
- We will provide opportunities for participation in local decision making processes, undertake capacity building in emerging communities and foster leadership development;
- We will seek to empower people through building knowledge and understanding of how Australian institutions and services work, with the aim of increasing participation in all aspects of community life; and
- We will advocate for policy change and additional resources for refugees and asylum seekers from other levels of government where these are discriminatory or lacking.

THE CITY OF YARRA WELCOMES REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS.

Community Accord

Reaffirming our faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, and in the equal rights of men and women.

Desiring to promote realisation of the principles contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, as well as other relevant international instruments that have been adopted by our State, and inspired by the provisions of the Racial and Religious Tolerance Act 2001 concerning the rights of all Victorians and the principles enshrined in the Multicultural Victoria Act 2004.

Believing that promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to different ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic communities contributes to the political and social stability of this our State of Victoria.

Emphasising that promotion and realisation of the rights of culturally and linguistically diverse peoples within a democratic framework based on the rule of law, is integral to the development of our society and strengthens friendship and cooperation among our peoples within our State.

Recognising the need for effective implementation of international and State human rights instruments with regard to the rights of persons belonging to different ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic communities.

We Proclaim this Community Accord

In recognition of Victoria as a vibrant, diverse and progressive State in which all people live, work and prosper together we the undersigned representatives of Victoria's varied communities undertake to:

- **Respect** all ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic communities
 - **Promote** respect for diversity across our communities
- **Seek** opportunities to work together to reaffirm our similarities as human beings and the fundamental principles that unite us as Victorians
- **Advocate** for the elimination of racial and religious intolerance
- **Reject** all forms of racial and religious vilification, violence, harassment and unlawful discrimination

In endorsing this declaration, we (the undersigned) accept responsibility to comply with these principles.

Signature: _____

Organisation: _____

To be listed as a signatory to the Community Accord please forward your information to the Victorian Multicultural Commission.
Email: community.accord@dvc.vic.gov.au Fax: (03) 9208 3179 Telephone: (03) 9208 3184
www.multicultural.vic.gov.au/communityaccord