

COMMITMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WELCOMING CITIES NETWORK

Local Councils

“Welcoming is not just the right thing to do, it’s the smart thing to do.”

We recognise that cities and municipalities that proactively foster an environment of belonging and participation for receiving communities, as well as new and emerging communities, increase their social cohesion and economic capability and resilience.

We therefore resolve to participate as a *member* of the *Welcoming Cities Network* and commit to taking the following initial steps toward creating an environment that unlocks the full potential of all members of the community:

- **Join, and participate in, a network of cities and communities** that are committed to becoming more welcoming.
- **Identify at least one key staff contact** for the project that will liaise directly with the *Welcoming Cities* team.
- **Communicate regularly with the Welcoming Cities team**, through at least three conference calls each year and an annual in-person meeting, to progress planning and share and learn from practices of other welcoming cities and communities.

We understand that the Welcoming Cities network involves a number of key elements.

Knowledge Sharing. Supporting local governments and communities to learn from each other and access resources, research, policies, and case studies.

Partnership Development. Brokering meaningful multi-sector partnerships that foster a sense of belonging and participation for all members of the community.

Standard and Accreditation. Developing and accrediting *The Australian Standard for Welcoming Cities* to benchmark policy and practice in cultural diversity and inclusion.

Celebrating Success. Showcasing leading practice through a National Award focused on responses by local government and communities to welcoming efforts.

Local councils participate as *members* of the Welcoming Cities network, while community organisations, businesses and other agencies are involved as *supporters*. Both *members* and *supporters* can access the key elements of the network.

The intent and commitment to participate as a member of the Welcoming Cities network is made by the following parties.

Council: _____

Representative Name: _____

Signature: _____

Executive Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: ____ / ____ / ____

