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| **Local Government Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum****Minutes – Meeting No. 36 – Wednesday 17 July 2024**1pm-3pm via Microsoft Teams |
| **Chairperson:** Mayor Cr Brad Bunting (Blacktown)**Member attendees:** Cr Jo Armstrong (Ararat), Mayor Cr Bob Sanders (Ararat), Mayor Cr Ben Ramcharan (Nillumbik), Mayor Cr Tom Melican (Banyule), John Drennan (Ballarat), Pradeep Peteti (Casey), Peter Johnstone (CGD), Ann Ly (CGD), Thiviya Nagenthiram (CGD), Celia Chang (Hume), Mayor Cr Jenna Davey-Burns (Kingston), Kate Wijeyesinghe (Monash), Kara Barnett (Melbourne), Mayor Cr Adam Pulford (Merri-bek), Nelum Buddhadasa (Merri-bek), Lisa King (Banyule), Mayor Cr Liz Pattison (Surf Coast), Dalal Sleiman (Whittlesea), Jenna House (Wyndham), Cr David Mallard (Orange), Emma Sampson (Merri-bek), Mayor Cr Nicky Luo (Monash), Mayor Cr Naim Kurt (Hume), Mayor Cr Susanne Newton (Darebin), Raewyn Afu (Brimbank), Michael Maxwell (Blacktown), Alicja Clisby (City of Port Adelaide Enfield), Elizabeth Orlov (Mornington Peninsula).**Guests:** Rebecca Langton (Refugee Council of Australia)**Apologies:** Mayor Cr Annette Death (Macedon Ranges), Lisa King (Banyule), Amy Bennett (Bass Coast), Mayor Cr Jack Kowarzik (Cardinia), Shabaz Fattah (Darebin), Ben Pollard (Hobsons Bay), Jess Smith (Kingston), Mayor Cr Cuc Lam (Maribyrnong), Kelsey Laffy (Maribyrnong), Cr Anab Mohamud (Yarra), Amani Nyikang (Yarra), Anni Gallagher (Orange), Cr Michael Olive (Randwick); Mayor Cr Claire Boan (PAE), Theresa Brown (PAE), Angelo Cadiz (PAE), Lisa Davis (Newcastle).Mayor Cr Lana Formoso (CGD), Mayor Cr Ross Ebbels (Queenscliffe), Stephen Sibanda (Brimbank), Cr Belinda Moloney (Geelong), Punam Pun (Hume), Cr Hadi Saab (Kingston), Amey Rountree (Monash), Cr Rose Iser (Moonee Valley), Cristina Del Frate (Yarra); Mayor Cr Jennie Barrera (Wyndham), Josephine Frawley (Ararat), Mayor Cr Des Hudson (Ballarat), Suzannah Burton (Ballarat), Mayor Cr Andrea Metcalf (Bendigo), Nikki Williams (Bendigo), Pinar Maher (Bendigo), Mayor Cr Ranka Rasic (Brimbank), Lynley Dumble (Brimbank), Cr Gaetano Greco (Darebin), Sally Beck (Geelong), Mayor Cr Matt Tyler (Hobsons Bay), Julie Andrews (Hume), Susan Quach (Kingston), Jennifer Anderson (Macedon Ranges), Catherine Dwyer (Maribyrnong), Mayor Cr Kylie Spears (Maroondah), Chris Riseley (Maroondah), Paul MacDonald (Maroondah), Lord Mayor Sally Capp (Melbourne), Deputy Lord Mayor Nicolas Reece (Melbourne), Cr Elizabeth Mary Doidge (Melbourne), Cr Rohan Leppert (Melbourne), Cr Roshena Campbell (Melbourne), Cr Kevin Louey (Melbourne), Cr Philip Le Liu (Melbourne), Cr Jamal Hakim (Melbourne), Cr Dr Olivia Ball (Melbourne), Cr Jason Chang (Melbourne), Cr Davydd Griffiths (Melbourne), Petr Svoboda (Merri-bek), Mayor Cr Pierce Tyson (Moonee Valley), Sally Abbott (Moonee Valley), Mayor Cr Simon Brooks (Mornington Peninsula), Chris Munro (Mornington Peninsula), Deputy Mayor Cr Geoff Paine (Nillumbik), April Wilson (Nillumbik), Mayor Cr Heather Cunsolo (Port Phillip), Ewa Zysk (Port Phillip), Mayor Cr Ian Bye (Wellington), Mayor Cr Denise Massoud (Whitehorse), Zoe Quinn (Whitehorse), Cr Sahana Ramesh (Wyndham), Liana Thompson (Wyndham); Mayor Cr Kylie King (Albury), Mayor Cr Bilal El-Hayek (Canterbury Bankstown), Graeme Beattie (Canterbury Bankstown), Garry Starr (Canterbury Bankstown), Mayor Cr Sarah McMahon (Hawkesbury), Danielle Wheeler (Hawkesbury), Mary Lyons-Buckett (Hawkesbury), Mayor Cr Darcy Byrne (Inner West), Cr Pauline Lockie (Inner West), Cr Justine Langford (Inner West), Cr Marghanita Da Cruz (Inner West), Cr Elizabeth Adamczyk (Newcastle), Melanie Hill (Newcastle), Petria Jukes (Newcastle), Mayor Cr Jason Hamling (Orange), Catherine Davis (Orange), Mayor Cr Philipa Veitch (Randwick), Cr Kym Chapple (Randwick), Cr Rafaela Pandolfini (Randwick), Mayor Cr Dallas Tout (Wagga Wagga); SA: Mayor Cr Michael Coxon (West Torrens), Adriana Christopoulos (West Torrens), TAS: Lord Mayor Cr Anna Reynolds (Hobart), Alison Hines (Hobart). |
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| **Agenda Item** | **Action** |
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| 1. **Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country**

Chair acknowledged Country and welcome all the attendees.  |  |
| 1. **Endorsement of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Previous Minutes Endorsed. |  |
| 1. **Review of Outstanding Action Items**

n/a | Outstanding members to renew membership with Secretariat as soon as possible. |
| 1. **Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) 2024 National General Assembly (NGA), Canberra, 2-4 July.**

Update from ALGA and Taskforce Delegation in Canberra:* Successful ALGA exhibition stand with representation from 17 Taskforce Mayors/Councillors at the stand.
* Twenty new Councillors signed up to be Councillor Friends of the Taskforce.
* Post-event, petition signature numbers increased by 100 and much higher engagement levels on social media.
* Sixteen MP meetings were secured and 13 attended, most MPs were supportive and provided feedback to further our advocacy.
* Successful morning tea was well attended by Taskforce Members and two individuals with lived experience shared their stories at the event.
* Feedback from Members:
	+ The exhibition stand location was excellent - central, close to the stage and catering points, and a great meeting point for members during the conference duration.
	+ Having fellow Councillors physically at the stand attracted the interest of passing conference attendees and helped raise awareness with councils who do not have a large migrant/refugee population.
	+ Members who attended the stand emphasised the high value of the stand and the in-person conversations helped break down perceptions and understanding of barriers faced by refugees.
	+ Provide more couches and tables at the stand.
	+ Better catering for morning tea.
	+ Delegates shared their positive experience of the opportunity to catch up with fellow Members in person at the morning tea.
	+ Competing events concurrent to the morning tea (Councillors have a busy ALGA schedule and the morning tea was held during the first meal break of the day, conference attendees wanted a break first). Time slot of morning tea can be reviewed for the future to maximise attendance by non-member Councillors.
	+ A meeting delegate highlighted the importance of bringing MPs into contact with local mayors and advocates to explain the local and broader context i.e. the Taskforce is supported by a large coalition of Member Councils.
	+ Refugee Council of Australia found it a valuable experience and will continue partnering with Taskforce.

Key follow-up actions were provided by Taskforce Delegates for each of the MP meetings attended.  | Secretariat will send follow-up to MPs based on discussed actions. |
| 1. **Back Your Neighbour campaign – a year in review**

Secretariat presented on the past 12 months of the campaign and completion of the 2023-24 Campaign Strategy, including an overview of public events, community group engagements, and submissions made by the Taskforce.Members were updated on new memberships and geographic spread of current members. Break out rooms on the following topics with attendees. * + How can I spread the word within my LGA?
	+ Which neighbouring Councils can I recruit?
	+ What areas can we do better as a Taskforce? Where are the gaps?

Ideas brainstormed included:* Promote information about BYN to different groups to highlight its relevance for them.
* Consider collaborating with service organizations, shelters and food relief organizations, as they could benefit from advocacy for people seeking asylum.
* Officers connecting with officers at non-member Councils.
* Special events (multicultural events, welcome dinners) to promote the campaign.
* Continue exploring partnerships with neighboring councils and regional networks to expand the influence.
* Utilise social media, local and national media opportunities to raise awareness e.g. sharing positive stories of refugees.
* Nillumbik Councillors engaging new Whittlesea Councillors post-election.
* Blacktown Council to encourage Hawkesbury and Blue Mountains Councillors to be more actively involved in Taskforce; inviting Cumberland and Fairfield to join.
* Orange Council can invite regional NSW Councils to join post-election (e.g. Leeton and Griffith where there is a lot of settlement and support, Dubbo, Bathurst); having like-minded Councillor put a motion up and get their colleagues on board.
 | All Taskforce members to promote the Back Your Neighbour campaign during their media engagements and local community events. |
| 1. **Other Business**
* Caretaker period (mid-August to early October for NSW; 17 September – 26 October for VIC)
* Monash University Placement Student – Master of Communications and Media Studies: BYN Media Project
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| 1. **Next Meeting**
* Meeting schedule:
	+ Wednesday 7 August online 1pm-3pm; Chair Mayor Cr Liz Pattison
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| 1. **Meeting closed at 3.00pm**
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