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| **Local Government Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum**  **Minutes – Meeting No. 38 – Wednesday 11 September 2024**  1pm-1.53pm via Microsoft Teams |
| **Chairperson:** Mayor Cr Lana Formoso (CGD)  **Attendees**:  John Drennan (Ballarat), Colin Henderson (Blacktown), Mayor Cr Ben Ramcharan (Nillumbik) , Pradeep Peteti (Casey), Celia Chang (Hume), Mayor Cr Adam Pulford (Merri-bek), Nelum Buddhadasa (Merri-bek), Sayanti Bhatta (Merri-bek), Dalal Sleiman (Whittlesea), Jenna House (Wyndham), Mayor Cr Susanne Newton (Darebin), Shabaz Fattah (Darebin), Jess Smith (Kingston), Marek Krol (CGD), Ann Ly (CGD), Thiviya Nagenthiram (CGD), Amey Rountree (Monash), Mayor Cr Simon Brooks (Mornington Peninsula), Chris Amani Godwin (Yarra), Mayor Cr Claire Boan (PAE).  **Apologies:**  Cr Jo Armstrong (Ararat), Mayor Cr Bob Sanders (Ararat), Mayor Cr Tom Melican (Banyule), Peter Johnstone (CGD), Kate Wijeyesinghe (Monash), Kara Barnett (Melbourne), Mayor Cr Jenna Davey-Burns (Kingston), Lisa King (Banyule), Mayor Cr Liz Pattison (Surf Coast), Cr David Mallard (Orange), Emma Sampson (Merri-bek), Mayor Cr Nicky Luo (Monash), Mayor Cr Naim Kurt (Hume), Raewyn Afu (Brimbank), Michael Maxwell (Blacktown), Alicja Clisby (City of Port Adelaide Enfield), Mayor Cr Annette Death (Macedon Ranges), Lisa King (Banyule), Amy Bennett (Bass Coast), Mayor Cr Jack Kowarzik (Cardinia), Ben Pollard (Hobsons Bay), Mayor Cr Cuc Lam (Maribyrnong), Kelsey Laffy (Maribyrnong), Cr Anab Mohamud (Yarra), Amani Nyikang (Yarra), Anni Gallagher (Orange), Cr Michael Olive (Randwick), Theresa Brown (PAE), Angelo Cadiz (PAE), Lisa Davis (Newcastle), Mayor Cr Ross Ebbels (Queenscliffe), Stephen Sibanda (Brimbank), Cr Belinda Moloney (Geelong), Punam Pun (Hume), Cr Hadi Saab (Kingston), , 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), Munro (Mornington Peninsula), Deputy 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); TAS: Lord Mayor Cr Anna Reynolds (Hobart), Alison Hines (Hobart). |

| **Agenda Item** | **Action** |
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| 1. **Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country**   Chair welcomed attendees and acknowledged Country. | - |
| 1. **Endorsement of Minutes of Previous Meeting**   Mayor Cr Adam Pulford (Merri-bek) moved and Amani Godwin (Yarra) seconded minutes of previous meeting. | - |
| 1. **Review of Outstanding Action Items**  * Updates from members (events, contacts, networks), letters sent to new Ministers and replies from MPs in Canberra.   + Merri-bek and Hume holding Human Rights Forum in November/December.   + Kingston will also be promoting the campaign during the upcoming Spring Fair in October. * Acknowledgements of 2024 Taskforce members. | - |
| 1. **Back Your Neighbour campaign – Spreading the word and building community support**  * New organizational endorsements: National Amnesty Refugee Network, Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group, National Justice Project, Labor for Refugees NSW/ACT, House of Welcome, Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education, The Salvation Army NSW, Welcome Merchant, Refugee Advocacy Network, Amnesty International - Bendigo Group, Anglican Diocese of Melbourne, MI Smart Life, SMRC, Social Justice & Advocacy - Interfaith Network, South East Community Links, Wesley Asylum Seeker Welcome Place, Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria (ECCV), Rural Australians for Refugees, Grandmothers For Refugees, Human Rights for All, Human Rights Law Centre. * Approach to community group endorsements and key asks:   + Collect petition signatures and promote to clients/members   + Connect with local Council and candidates   + Write to local Federal MP * E-newsletter example from Merri-bek City Council. * BYN A5 community postcard now available in Tamil, Dari and Pashto. | All members to reach out to Secretariat for BYN collateral to promote BYN in their municipality. |
| 1. **Other Business**  * EOI Opportunity for lived experience: Greater Dandenong has commenced a video media project for Back Your neighbour social channels and there is opportunity for people of lived experience (permanent visa holders who have a recent experience of the asylum process in Australia), to feature in video case studies. The aim is to shift the public narrative about refugees and people seeking asylum via stories of their resilience an/or their positive contributions to society. Participants will be reimbursed for their participation. | - |
| 1. **Next Meeting**  * CANCELLED Wednesday 16 October 1pm-3pm (Caretaker period) * Wednesday 4 December, 1pm-3pm, in-person at Darebin Council Chambers, 350 High Street, Preston and hybrid option for NSW and SA members. | - |
| 1. **Meeting closed 1.53pm** | - |