

1. Back Your Neighbour



The opportunity

Council welcomes the Federal Government's reforms of the Protection Visa system, which has offered permanency to thousands of refugees in Greater Dandenong.

There are still at least 700 people in the City who face the prospect of persecution and conflict in their homelands. Granting them permanent residency would provide safety and protection for children and families.

**BACK YOUR
NEIGHBOUR**

#Back Your Neighbour

The 'Back Your Neighbour' campaign led by Council, is supported by **over 40 Local Governments** and more than **70 community organisations nationally**.

Why it matters

Greater Dandenong is home to the second highest number of people living on Bridging Visas in Victoria.

Many families and children in Dandenong do not have work rights and/or access to basic services. As a result, they live in poverty and seek desperate financial and material aid from local services and Council.

From **2024**, Council's **Community Connector program** has supported **over 1,000 families** many of whom are people seeking asylum - with food, clothing, and emergency relief.

What Council is asking for

- Provide a **fair and clear path for refugees** with unresolved immigration status to get permanent protection.
- Give people a **valid visa with work rights** so they can support themselves.
- Make **health care, financial help and important services easier to access** so people can participate fully in society.