

BACK YOUR NEIGHBOUR

Stand up for our neighbours who need certainty, stability and support to build their lives



OUR MISSION

The Australian Federal Government is keeping thousands of people living in limbo for more than a decade while their applications for asylum are processed.

This cruel approach prevents individuals and families from gaining the stability that refugee status provides.

People waiting for their refugee status determination are denied access to many funded support services such as healthcare, housing, education and social support.

This leaves individuals and families with nothing to survive on, except for support from charities and local Councils who are stepping in to help.

Back Your Neighbour is a coalition of Local Governments, community organisations, unions and individual Australians advocating on policies affecting people seeking asylum in our local communities.

It is auspiced by the Local Government Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum.

OUR ADVOCACY ASKS



1. Provide everyone with a valid visa with work, travel and study rights

- Provide people awaiting decisions on their protection application with a valid visa and associated work rights.
- Provide people higher education study rights and access to scholarships.
- Enable all bridging visa classes to have overseas travel rights and remove the need for a waiver.



2. Expand the Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS) Program eligibility criteria and simplify the application process so that people in need can access healthcare, disability, housing support and other essential services

- Expand SRSS eligibility to all people in need to fully utilise the underspent Federal budget allocated to the program.
- Simplify the application process so eligible people are not excluded by the burden of applying.
- Ensure all people seeking asylum have access to basic healthcare, disability, income, housing and social support while they await decisions in the refugee determination process, to reduce the burden on Local Government and charitable organisations.



3. Ensure an independent, timely and fair application and merits review process for all humanitarian applications.

- Enable fairer and faster processing of onshore protection visa applications, including providing certainty on processing timeframes.



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OUR ADVOCACY ASKS (CONTINUED)



4. Provide people who have received a negative refugee determination under the 'Fast Track' system with a fair review process

- People who have received a negative outcome under the Fast Track process should have their reviews heard in a timely and fair manner.



5. Continue to invest resources to urgently clear the backlog of asylum applications and appeals

- Ensure the backlog of applications and appeals are cleared with appropriate, ongoing resourcing.



6. Abolish temporary visas like Temporary Protection Visas and replace them with permanent visas and pathways to citizenship for all humanitarian arrivals

- Ensure all refugees on TPVs and SHEVs are offered permanent Resolution of Status visas by April 2024.
- Abolish temporary protection visas and provide permanent protection to all refugees.
- Despite permanent residents being eligible for citizenship, many are unable to provide the proof of identity documentation that is required for their citizenship application and as a result, their applications are being refused. Permanent visa holders applying for citizenship should be permitted to use the same identity documents as per their permanent visa application, for their citizenship application.
- In circumstances where proof of identity for application of citizenship cannot be provided that the Department considers other mechanisms for appropriate identification to be provided by applicant.

CONTACT US



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