

## Local Government Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum Minutes – Executive Meeting No. 6 Wednesday 16 January 2019 Hume City Council, 1079 Pascoe Vale Road, Broadmeadows

**Chairperson:** Mayor, Cr Roz Blades AM (*Greater Dandenong*)

**Attendees:** Mayor, Cr Lucinda Congreve (*Brimbank*), India Mortlock (*Brimbank*), Terri Soumilas (*Brimbank*), Deputy Mayor, Cr Susanne Newton (*Darebin Council*), Mandy Bathgate (*Darebin Council*), Cr Matthew Kirwan (*Greater Dandenong*), Peter Johnstone (*Greater Dandenong*), Fran McKechnie (*Greater Dandenong*), Marek Krol (*Greater Dandenong*) – Minute Taker, Amber Cassidy (*Hobsons Bay*), Mayor, Cr Carly Moore (*Hume*), Julie Andrews (*Hume*), Carmen Frawley (*Hume*), Pamela Kosij (*Monash*), Karl Hale (*Moreland*), Nalika Peiris (*Moreland*), Cristina Del Frate (*Yarra*).

**Guests:** Daniel Scoullar (*Social Change Projects*), Meghan Hopper (*Moonee Valley*).

**Apologies:** Mayor, Cr Natalie Abboud (*Moreland*), Kate McCaughey (*Moonee Valley*).

Agenda Item	Discussion Points/Comments	Follow up Actions / Who
1. Welcome and Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor Cr Roz Blades AM welcomed everyone.</li> <li>• Apologies noted.</li> </ul>	
2. Endorsement of Minutes of Previous Meeting	<p>Previous minutes moved by Cr Matthew Kirwan. Seconded: Mayor, Cr Carly Moore.</p>	
3. Review of Outstanding Action Items	To be discussed at next meeting.	Include on next agenda – CGD Council.

<p><b>4. General Status of <i>Back Your Neighbour</i> Campaign Including Decisions at Teleconference on 8 January Relating To:</b></p> <p>a) <b>Engaging Social Change Projects</b>  b) <b>Funding and Resourcing Mechanisms</b>  c) <b>Current Campaign Objectives</b></p> <p><b>5. Review of Phase 1 – Social Change Projects</b></p>	<p>Mayor, Cr Roz Blades AM summarised the following with other member input:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 19 Taskforce Member Councils, part of 23 councils across Australia supporting the campaign is a great achievement in such a short time frame.</li> <li>• The Agenda Group (TAG) worked very hard to insure media exposure of the campaign, albeit media reach was low. Good campaign collateral was created by TAG and continues to be utilised in mobilising community support for the campaign.</li> <li>• Taskforce Secretariat's capacity increased with dedicated campaign officer at 0.6 EFT, who will also be central point of contact for the campaign.</li> <li>• Councils requested to generate social media content as certain regions of Victoria have more compelling stories (e.g. families being exited from SRSS payments).</li> <li>• Potential similarities with Back Your Neighbour and Amnesty's My New Neighbour were raised, and possibility to merge both campaigns. However, My New Neighbour is directed at community sponsorship and is a very different campaign. There is ability to support each other's campaigns without conflicting messaging.</li> <li>• Councils can discuss increased funding from local State MPs for community organisations.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>6. <i>Back Your Neighbour</i> Campaign Phase 2 – Overview of Social Change Projects Proposal (inc. Approach, Inclusions, Exclusions, Council Involvement etc)</b></p>	<p>Peter Johnstone summarised the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phase Two: Building community networks and political pressure. Show it's a political problem and not just a social problem.</li> <li>• Engage with local and community organisations (e.g. asylum seeker and refugee community groups, unions, churches), building a network of political pressure to reverse cuts.</li> <li>• Refine the campaign's ask to the State Government. Focus on the humanitarian aspect.</li> <li>• ALP policy platform – need to solidify Federal Labor's commitment and timeline with reversing the SRSS cuts. Require further information and clarification.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>7. <i>Back Your Neighbour</i> Campaign Workshop</b></p>	<p>Daniel Scoullar from Social Change Projects (SCP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three strategies to achieve objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Build support base among diverse range of organisations willing to stand up and speak out against SRSS cuts.</li> <li>○ Grow list of individual supporters.</li> <li>○ Identify community champions and work with them to extend the reach and profile of the campaign.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Circulate PowerPoint to taskforce members – CGD</p> <p>Updated contact list to be formed – All Member Councils to supply.</p>

<b>8. Social Media Status / Going Forward</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cr Kirwan thanked Councillors for their media input throughout December. 400 – 1400 hits on Social Media, 1,100 on Twitter.</li> </ul>	Councils to promote Facebook through their own Facebook page and follow on Twitter – All Member Councils.
<b>9. Membership Growth Update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leeton Shire Council NSW has joined the Taskforce as a general member</li> <li>Manningham Council will discuss the membership at their next Council meeting.</li> <li>City of Geelong will consider a Council report in the next month.</li> <li>Three NSW Councils are also considering joining the Taskforce.</li> </ul>	
<b>10. Terms of Reference Change</b>	Changes to Terms of Reference were approved by attending members: 2. Purpose a) Coordination of joint state-wide advocacy by <b>Victorian</b> Councils and sharing resources and practical responses by <b>Victorian</b> communities to the issues caused by the SRSS cuts. to 2. Purpose a) Coordination of joint state-wide advocacy by <b>Australian</b> Councils and sharing resources and practical responses by <b>Australian</b> communities to the issues caused by the SRSS cuts.	
<b>11. Review of Local Government Mayoral Taskforce for People Seeking Asylum – Strategic Priorities Summary</b>	To be discussed at next meeting.	Include on next agenda – CGD Council.
<b>12. Regional/Local Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Northern Alliance</li> <li>PSAAR Taskforce (South-East) Regional</li> </ul>	Northern Alliance has not reconvened yet.  Peter Johnstone reported that the People Seeking Asylum At Risk (PSAAR) taskforce has changed its name to People Seeking Asylum At Risk Of Destitution (PSAARD). It has a membership of 30 agencies. Next meeting is to be held on Thursday 31 January and will appraise and recognize achievements and plan future actions, including how it will relate to the Mayoral Taskforce.	
<b>13. Other Business</b>	The Mayoral Taskforce is invited to attend the National Palm Sunday Walk for Justice 2019 on Sunday 14 April. The theme for 2019 is the treatment of refugees in Australia and off-shore which includes the SRSS cuts.	

<b>14. Next Meeting</b>	<p><b>Wednesday 13 February 2019, 1:00pm-3.00pm, Hobsons Bay City Council, 115 Civic Parade, Altona</b></p> <p>Proposed meeting dates and venues (to be confirmed):  Wednesday, 13 March                      Monash City Council.  Wednesday, 17 April                      City of Greater Dandenong.  Wednesday, 22 May                      City of Yarra.</p>	
<b>15. Close</b>	Meeting Closed 3pm.	