



APPENDIX A

Scoping of Long Term Refugee Housing Solutions

Following a Council resolution on 7 March 2016, officers have now taken steps to integrate refugee housing provisions into the 'air-rights' based public and refugee housing projects as part of the Darebin Social and Affordable Housing Project. While still to be endorsed, and although not representing an immediate option, the project offers up potential housing models for asylum seekers and refugee communities who seek sanctuary within our municipality in the future.

In September 2015 Council supported in principle the 'Social and Affordable Housing Program on Council owned Land'. This builds on Council's previous work by developing the 'air rights' above Council owned car parks for social and affordable housing.

One of the priority target groups for this program continues to be refugees and new arrivals.

On 5 October 2015, a Notice of Motion expanded on the intent of the Social and Affordable Housing Program on Council owned Land to include an additional Council owned property specifically targeted to Syrian refugees and other refugees who may be seeking urgent sanctuary in our community.

APPENDIX B

Proposed Council Position Statement

To demonstrate Council's continued support for agencies providing direct support, build capacity for a response at the local level and in advocating to other levels of Government, the following statement is proposed for consideration:

“Darebin City Council applauds the Victorian Premier, Daniel Andrews for offering the State of Victoria to take in and care for the 267 asylum seekers facing removal to danger on Nauru by the Australian Government.

*As a signatory to the **Joint Statement by Victorian Local Governments on Asylum Seekers** and a **Refugee Welcome Zone City**, Council joins Australia’s international aid organisations and community sector organisations backing Australia’s churches in their efforts to create compassionate solutions to the current asylum seeker situation.*

Through our partnerships with local settlement services and networks such as the Darebin Emergency Relief Network, Council will continue to support the needs and rights of asylum seekers and refugees as recognized and valued members of our community.

In particular, Council, along with many other communities, remains extremely concerned about the fate of children who are survivors of torture, trauma and abuse. We are aware of vulnerable people, including 37 babies and 57 children potentially being sent to detention centres who are likely to suffer adverse and serious mental health and other health issues.

We are deeply disappointed with the decisions to disregard the needs of these children and babies and request that the Australian Government make moral and humanitarian decisions to not send vulnerable people to offshore detention centres.

Darebin City Council, through commitments set out in the Darebin Anti-Racism Strategy and the Darebin Equity and Inclusion Policy, together with our community support a fair, inclusive and caring City and will continue to advocate on behalf of those people experiencing discrimination and hardship.”