

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL

# Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Resources and Links for Community  
and Council



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# Local

## **South Gippsland Rural Australians for Refugees (SGRAR)**

[www.ruralaustraliansforrefugees.org.au/rar-groups/victoria/south-gippsland](http://www.ruralaustraliansforrefugees.org.au/rar-groups/victoria/south-gippsland)

Contact

Felicia de Stephani or Richard Kentwell

Email [sgrar07@gmail.com](mailto:sgrar07@gmail.com)

- Raise public awareness of issues involving asylum seekers and refugees
- Write letters to newspapers and politicians
- Meet members of parliament
- Provide practical help to refugees settling in the area
- Fundraise and run awareness raising events

Information on how to support asylum seekers and refugees available at

[www.ruralaustraliansforrefugees.org.au](http://www.ruralaustraliansforrefugees.org.au)

## **Latrobe Community Health Service – Settlement Services Program**

Phone 1800 242 696

[www.lchs.com.au/community/migrant-and-refugee-support](http://www.lchs.com.au/community/migrant-and-refugee-support)

Contact

Debra Carnduff - Community Settlement Worker for South Gippsland, Baw Baw and Bass Coast (20 hours per week)

Email [Debra.Carnduff@lchs.com.au](mailto:Debra.Carnduff@lchs.com.au) Mobile 0407 975 815

- The Settlement Services Program at Latrobe Community Health Service is a free service to residents of Gippsland who have arrived in Australia within the last five years and are either a refugee or do not speak English well.
- Provide help to new arrivals in Australia to become more independent and feel comfortable in their new community.
- Can help with applying for a house; English lessons; Relationships; Getting a job; Health concerns; Using government services like Centrelink.

## **Gippsland Multicultural Services**

[www.gmsinfo.com.au](http://www.gmsinfo.com.au)

### **Contact**

Mesia Grebic – Humanitarian Settlement Services/Home and Community Care Worker

- Service humanitarian entrants and refugees
- Provide humanitarian support for the first six months after arrival to Department of Immigration and Border Protection referrals only.
- Provide intense case support including housing, medical, education, orientation to local community, shops, banks, for six months

## **Milpara Community House**

[www.milparacommunityhouse.org.au](http://www.milparacommunityhouse.org.au)

### **Contact**

Jenni Keerie

Email [milpara@dcsl.net.au](mailto:milpara@dcsl.net.au) Phone 5655 2524

- Provide English for Migrants and English as a Second Language course

## **South Coast Service Providers Network (SPIN)**

- Amalgamated with the South Gippsland Settlement Committee in 2013
- Council staff attend this network.

# **State, Federal or Not For Profit**

## **Victorian Local Government Multicultural Issues Network**

### **Municipal Association of Victoria**

<http://www.mav.asn.au/what-we-do/policy-advocacy/social-community/diversity-inclusion/cultural-diversity>

- Shares information between Councils
- Advocates on behalf of Councils
- Promotes best practice in cultural diversity
- Provides advice and contacts for ethnic services and access and equality projects
- Lobbies on issues affecting multicultural affairs
- Holds forums, working groups and bi-monthly meetings
- Provides newsletter update to Councils



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### **Refugee Council of Australia**

[www.refugeecouncil.org.au](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au)

- A non-profit, non-government organisation registered as an incorporated association and funded through contributions from its members and project grants from philanthropic bodies and government agencies. It has an elected Board.
- National peak body for refugees and the organisation and individuals who support them. The RCOA promotes the adoption of flexible, humane and constructive policies towards refugees and asylum seekers through conducting policy analysis, research, advocacy and public education on refugee issues.
- Website includes fact sheets including Who are refugees?; Australia's Refugee and Humanitarian Program; Myths about refugees; Settlement issues, Settlement Services; International issues; Asylum seeker issues and Asylum seeker Services.

### **Refugee and Asylum Seeker Welcome Zone**

<https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/our-work/refugee-welcome-zones/>

- Local Government Area which has made a commitment in spirit to welcoming refugees into the community. There are more than 120 Local Government Areas that have declared themselves Refugee Welcome Zones.
- Began June 2002
- Councils can make a declaration that is a "commitment in spirit to welcoming refugees into our community, upholding the human rights of refugees, demonstrating compassion for refugees and enhancing cultural and religious diversity in our community"
- Resource available on Refugee Welcome Zones and the activities of local governments signed up as Refugee Welcome Zones. (Dec 2013)

### **Australian Department of Immigration Settlement Database**

[www.immi.gov.au/settlement](http://www.immi.gov.au/settlement)

- The Settlement Reporting Facility utilises the Settlement Database to provide the general public with statistical data on permanent arrivals to Australia

## **Australian Government – Department of Social Services**

[www.dss.gov.au](http://www.dss.gov.au)

### **Settlement and Multicultural Affairs**

<https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/settlement-services/publications>

Provides information and resources for those interested in the Government's settlement and multicultural activities. Extensive Publications section at:

[www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/settlement-and-multicultural-affairs/publications](http://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/settlement-and-multicultural-affairs/publications)

Settlement and Multicultural Affairs – Syrian/Iraqi crisis

[www.dss.gov.au/settlement-and-multicultural-affairs-programs-policy/syrian-iraqi-humanitarian-crisis](http://www.dss.gov.au/settlement-and-multicultural-affairs-programs-policy/syrian-iraqi-humanitarian-crisis)

Describes:

1. What is the Syrian/Iraqi humanitarian crisis?
2. What is Australia doing to help?
3. How will the 12,000 humanitarian entrants be supported to settle in Australia?
4. What can I do?
5. What can my community do to help?
6. Media Hub

### **AMES Australia**

[www.ames.net.au](http://www.ames.net.au)

AMES Australia is an autonomous Adult Education Institution accountable to the Victorian Minister for Skills and Training under the Education and Training Reform Act 2006.

AMES Australia helps new and recently arrived refugees and migrants to settle in to Victoria. It provides a range of settlement services including on-arrival settlement support, English language and literacy training, vocational training and employment services.



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