**[Your Name]**

**[Address]**

**[City, State, Postcode]**

**[Date]**

**[Recipient Name]**

**[Title]**

**[Company]**

**[Address]**

**[City, State, Postcode]**

***Find your local Federal MP here:*** [***https://www.aph.gov.au/senators\_and\_members/guidelines\_for\_contacting\_senators\_and\_members***](https://www.aph.gov.au/senators_and_members/guidelines_for_contacting_senators_and_members)

Dear [Recipient Name],

**It’s time for Australia to introduce a community refugee sponsorship program for refugees**

***See how to address MPs here:*** [***https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators\_and\_Members/Guidelines\_for\_Contacting\_Senators\_and\_Members/How\_to\_address\_Senators\_and\_Members***](https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Guidelines_for_Contacting_Senators_and_Members/How_to_address_Senators_and_Members)

I’m a resident of [name of electorate].  I’m writing to express my distress about the situation in Afghanistan and to share my view that Australia should announce a special humanitarian intake of Afghan refugees and let you know that many private citizens are ready, willing and able to help welcome and support more refugee arrivals.

[*Say something about why you think Australia should be accepting more refugees from Afghanistan and any local groups that you are involved in who would like to welcome and support Afghan refugees.*]

Australia does not currently have a national framework that would enable me and other members of the [Electorate] community to sponsor refugees from overseas, in the way that happens in countries like Canada, the United Kingdom, Ireland, New Zealand and many more.  An Australian organisation, Community Refugee Sponsorship Australia (CRSA) has recently piloted a program that shows that this could readily be done in Australia – details of this can be found on their website.[[1]](#footnote-1)

All that is required from the federal government to unlock this cost-effective resettlement pathway is for the government to set aside some additional visas for ‘sponsored’ refugees and a small amount of annual funding to support the promotion and coordination of a program.  Doing this will unlock and harness the time and financial resources of everyday Australians who are eager to help and enable refugee newcomers to be fully welcomed and supported as they integrate into the Australian community. Sponsors can help people become oriented in their local community, learn English and use their personal and social networks to help refugee newcomers find employment or establish new businesses.

I would be very grateful if you could contact the Prime Minister and the Minister for Immigration to encourage them to fast-track the introduction of such a program in Australia.

Sincerely,

[Signature Image]

[Name]

[Title]

1. See [www.refugeesponsorship.org.au](http://www.refugeesponsorship.org.au/) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)