

Now is the time to enable community sponsorship of refugees in Australia

1. There has never been a better time for Australia to adopt innovative, cost-effective and successful ways to resettle more refugees

- Australia's responsibility to respond to the global refugee challenge and assist specific refugee cohorts (e.g. Afghan refugees)
- Need for migrants to address acute labour shortages in many parts of Australia
- Reopening of our international borders

2. Community sponsorship of refugees is a tried and tested way to do this

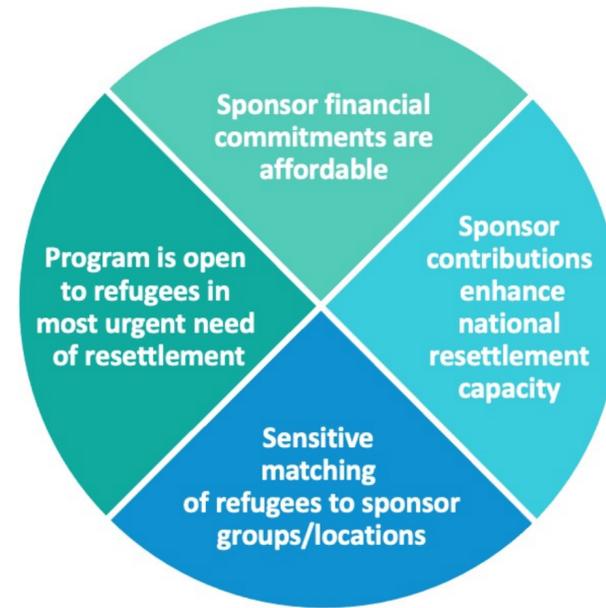
- Sponsor groups provide equivalent support to that provided by government-funded 'Humanitarian Settlement Program' services but with the added elements of the **social capital & networks, deep local knowledge, flexibility and friendship** that can be offered by a group of local volunteers
- Framework **tried and tested in Canada for over 40 years** and now spreading around the world (incl. UK, US, Ireland, Germany, Spain, Argentina)
- Proven benefits for refugee **employment and social integration, learning English and successful settlement in regional locations**
- Community-led and volunteer-driven = **place-based and cost-effective**

3. Community Refugee Sponsorship Australia (CRSA) has developed the tools and shown that it can work here

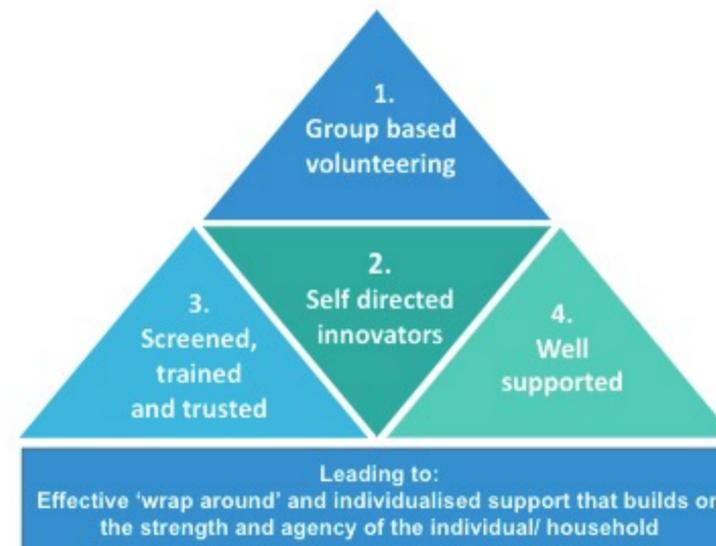
- Since relaunching our successful 'Group Mentorship Program' in August 2021 CRSA has mobilised and trained approximately **600 everyday Australians, including ADF veterans** as volunteers to provide wrap-around welcome & support to refugee households (approximately **80 groups in dozens of locations across most states and territories**), with more in the pipeline.
- This program was designed to pilot key elements of a full community sponsorship program and scaled up to support Afghan evacuees
- By mid December, around **200 refugees across 40 households** will be receiving free and effective holistic, 'whole of family', wrap-around support to help with finding **employment**, learning **English**, recognition of **overseas qualifications**, succeeding in **education, learning to drive**, local **orientation**, **accessing services** and securing **housing and household goods**
- **Dozens of grass roots community organisations** already engaged (churches, clubs, schools, businesses)

Guiding principles for program design

The program should aim to **engage a broad cross section of the Australian community**, not just those with personal connections to refugees wishing to resettle here



Guiding principles for the role of sponsor groups



4. What is the current state of play?

- The 2019 *Shergold Report* into refugee settlement and integration commissioned by the Prime Minister's office recommended the introduction of an additional community sponsorship program for refugees among other measures
- In mid 2021 the Department of Home Affairs published a report highlighting serious flaws in Australia's current 'Community Support Program', providing clear insights on what is needed in a future community sponsorship program
- Public statements from government representatives suggest that new measures are being considered, but no concrete announcements have been made

5. What is needed from the federal government?

- The announcement of a new federal program with a pro-refugee narrative
- An allocation of humanitarian visas: we have been calling for these visas to supplement the current humanitarian quota to enhance the incentive for community members to engage and build the scale of Australia's resettlement efforts
- Funding for civil society partner to recruit, train & support sponsor groups and investment program co-design

6. Watch the video and find out more

- Watch 5-minute video of pilot program in action: <https://youtu.be/ts2SNGsRU7w>
- Read the independent evaluation of the 2020 pilot program [here](#)
- Visit CRSA's website for more information [here](#)



The public support for the Group Mentorship Program has been overwhelming and we have more than doubled the size of our planned program intake in 2021. CRSA requires sustainable funding in order to continue to meet the demand of everyday Australians and refugees who wish to benefit from this program.