**[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],

**In the Lead Up to the Global Refugee Forum, Australia should Expand Community Sponsorship 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 am a resident of **[**i*n name of electorate***]**.  I am writing to you because I would like to see the Australian government create more opportunities for everyday Australians and community-based organisations to support refugees to come to Australia through ‘community sponsorship’. Community sponsorship has been tried and tested at scale in Canada and other countries and is now being successfully piloted in Australia through the Community Refugee Integration and Settlement Pilot (CRISP).

*[For people involved in the CRISP or Group Mentorship Program: I am personally involved in community sponsorship, as a member of [name of your community sponsor group] in [name of your town/suburb]. [Add any details of the work your group has done under CRISP or GMP, and the benefits of this wor*k].

With record global levels of human displacement, the need for refugee resettlement opportunities is greater than ever. Despite this, only a small minority of refugees can access resettlement each year (in 2022, this was fewer than 7% of refugees identified by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees as needing resettlement). As a wealthy, responsible and compassionate nation, I believe that Australia can and should continue to expand its response to this global situation. We can fully harness the power of all segments of society to partner with government in this endeavour by increasing opportunities for everyday Australians and community-based organisations to engage in community sponsorship of refugees.

I welcome the Australian government’s stated aspiration to progressively increase places for community sponsorship and other complementary pathways (through pathways involving education, employment, and family reunion), to 10,000 per year over time and make this additional to Australia’s humanitarian intake. I urge the government to act swiftly in making these aspirations a reality and build upon the important work already done through programs like the CRISP. Launched in mid-2022, CRISP has seen dozens of refugee households successfully welcomed by groups of everyday Australians in communities large and small, with significantly positive outcomes for refugee arrivals and sponsoring communities alike.

Finally, I am sharing details of a [pledge](https://refugeesponsorship.org.au/grf-pledge/) that a growing number of civil society and community-based organisations are endorsing in the lead up to the Global Refugee Forum in December 2023. This is a global gathering of UN Member States, civil society, and other stakeholders, convened in Geneva every 4 years in support of finding solutions for refugees. Through this pledge, Australian groups are making clear their intention to support the expansion of community refugee sponsorship and calling on the Australian government to do the same by scaling up exiting programs and creating new sponsorship streams in a way that builds more opportunities for refugees make Australia their home and contribute to the success of our great nation.

I have sent a copy of this letter to The Hon Andrew Giles MP Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs, and The Hon Clare O’Neil MP Minister for Home Affairs. I would be grateful if you could also contact them to discuss how the expansion of community refugee sponsorship could be fast tracked.

[A*sk for a reply to this letter, providing your contact details – or a face-to-face meeting]*

Sincerely,

[Signature Image]

[Name]

[Title]