

Community Refugee Sponsorship Australia

July 2024

Who are we?

Community Refugee Sponsorship Australia (CRSA) is an independent, national non profit organisation that leads in encouraging, developing and supporting programs that expand and improve refugee settlement in Australia by harnessing the generosity, goodwill and social capital of everyday Australians.

Guided by our values of Human Kindness, Courage, Autonomy, Innovation and Trust, CRSA is developing ideas, creating shared visions for the future and delivering programs that empower everyday Australians to take local action as part of a growing global movement responding to the unprecedented scale of the global refugee challenge. Our work benefits refugee newcomers, everyday Australians and local Australian communities alike.

Our work is inspired by Canada's world-renown community sponsorship approach, and the Australian community's historically deep engagement in welcoming and supporting refugee newcomers. We began as a joint initiative of the Refugee Council of Australia, Save the Children Australia, Amnesty International Australia, Welcoming Cities, Rural Australians for Refugees and the Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce in 2018. CRSA was launched as an independent charity in 2021 with full tax deductible gift recipient (DGR) status.



CRISP - Our flagship program and its impact

The Community Refugee Integration and Settlement Pilot (CRISP) is our flagship program, co-designed and delivered by CRSA in partnership with the Commonwealth Department of Home Affairs. CRSA has been funded by the Department to deliver the CRISP since its launch in 2022. Groups of five or more everyday people are empowered to be the primary source of welcome and support for a refugee household from 'day one' in Australia and throughout their first year of settling here. We mobilise, train and support these groups who we match with a refugee household referred into the program by UNHCR and the Australian government. The launch of the CRISP in 2022 followed years of advocacy and the operation of a successful 'proof of concept' mentorship program during the COVID-19 pandemic and 2021 Afghan evacuation.



The CRISP is:

- Delivering high quality settlement outcomes for the refugee households in the program
- Supporting social cohesion and optimising refugee social and economic integration
- Enabling refugees to resettle in a wider range of locations around Australia

At the community level, the program is:

- Increasing community engagement and social cohesion, by connecting Australian community members with each other and with refugee newcomers, around a powerful shared purpose
- Giving local communities a practical way to express their desire to help and give in a way that responds to the global refugee challenge and enhances global equity.

On a national level, over time this is:

- Increasing the visibility of and public support for Australia's humanitarian migration program
- Helping to build more informed, compassionate and nuanced public understandings of refugee experiences



Key CRISP Outcomes (June 2022 to July 2024)



Community Engagement

250+ viable groups engaged



Refugee Household /Group Matches

128 Households (537 individuals) matched with groups



Arrivals to Australia

117 Households (464 individuals) arrived



National Footprint

Groups in all Australian states and territories



Global Reach

15 countries of origin

Refugee outcomes*



100% of Households were in long term-housing by 6 months post-arrival. (vast majority in first 12 weeks)



69% of Households had engaged in paid employment within 12 months of arrival.



95% of Households still engaged in English classes at 12 months post-arrival. (with balance self-assessed as proficient)



56% of Households engaged in skills training and other vocational study within 12 months of arrival.



96% of Households made social connections with the group & community within 12 months of arrival.

*Data collected through CRSA's monitoring calls with refugee newcomers and community supporter groups

Innovation, advocacy and future opportunities

CRSA has been at the forefront of civil society advocacy efforts that led to the Australian government's recent international pledge to work towards 10,000 additional resettlement places per annum for refugees, using community sponsorship and other complementary settlement pathways. CRSA is proud to see the CRISP contributing to a recently expanded Australian humanitarian intake quota while continuing to advocate for new community sponsorship streams and the embedding of the principle of 'additionality' and other innovations. Our work includes:

- **Developing new sponsored pathways for refugees** - Research, policy and advocacy work to develop new sponsorship streams including a new 'named' or 'linked sponsorship' and a new educational pathway, enabling Australian individuals and organisations to sponsor refugee newcomers who are selected by them
- **Leading innovation, collaboration and cross-fertilisation** – Convening and leading sector discussions and initiatives focussed on developing and scaling new 'complementary pathways' such as education and labour mobility schemes for refugees and how the community sponsorship model can support such pathways
- **Exploring a larger role for the Australian community** - Exploring with sector stakeholders ways in which the broader Australian community can contribute more fully to Australia's longstanding mainstream settlement pathways for refugees

Keen to support or donate?


We would love to discuss how you can support our work financially or otherwise. Please contact our CEO Lisa Button (lisa.button@refugeesponsorship.org.au) to discuss opportunities **OR** if you would like to make an untied tax-deductible donation, this can be done via our bank account:
Community Refugee Sponsorship Australia BSB: 063 188 Account: 1049 1497



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CRISP as a force multiplier

Each community supporter group we mobilise and train raises on average \$15,000 in funds to support a newcomer household and contributes an estimated 520 hours of free, holistic, tailored and place-based support to that household over a 12 month period : social support, career mentoring, English practice, driving lessons - the list is endless. Extrapolating this to 100 groups means, conservatively, unlocking \$4.1 million in value from the community - \$1.5 million in funds plus 52,000 hours of free holistic support. One could conservatively value this 'free' support work at at least \$2.6 million, but in reality the value is priceless due to the unique features of the model and the social capital that is unlocked.

 Arrivals into all states and territories except Northern Territory, where the first refugee household will arrive in September 2024.

 Approximately 50% of groups are in regional areas.

 Approximately 50% of groups are in metropolitan areas.

 New community-led settlement 'clusters' are forming, as communities witnessing the program in action are inspired to get involved.



Countries of origin for refugee newcomers

Afghanistan	Guatemala	Palestine
Burundi	Iran	South Sudan
Congo	Iraq	Syria
El Salvador	Myanmar	Venezuela
Ethiopia	Pakistan	Vietnam

Affinity and special interest groups have included



Faith-Based Communities



Educational Professionals



LGBTIQ+ Communities



Women's Groups



Personal Experience with Disability/Neurodiversity



Rural/Agricultural Communities



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EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES TO WELCOME REFUGEES

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