THE HON JULIAN HILL MP

ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR CITIZENSHIP AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

MEDIA RELEASE

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Community Refugee Integration and Settlement program to become permanent

The Australian Government's cost-effective Community Refugee Integration and Settlement Pilot (CRISP) will become a permanent feature of Australia's overall humanitarian program.

CRISP enjoys bipartisan support, and making it permanent recognises the Government's ongoing commitment to community refugee sponsorship and the important role communities and everyday Australians can play in humanitarian settlement.

Community volunteers have welcomed and directly supported newly arrived refugees to settle in their local communities.

The Pilot has provided an alternative settlement pathway for refugees who do not have links in Australia referred by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for resettlement under Australia's Humanitarian Program.

The four-year pilot has so far enabled over 500 refugees to be settled by community groups based in large cities and small towns, in all states and territories across Australia. Research shows that CRISP has had a positive impact on the refugees and community groups involved, with people demonstrating strong settlement and integration outcomes. The majority of refugees settled through CRISP also reported that they felt welcome in their local community and found it easy to settle in Australia.

Australia is a world leader in high quality resettlement efforts, and our nation's ongoing commitment to genuine, community-led refugee integration comes at a time when global displacement is at historical levels.

CRISP is consistent with the Albanese Government's ongoing commitment to securing our borders, while maintaining our sense of humanity and responsibility.

Building on the Pilot's success the permanent program is earmarked to support an initial 200 participants in 2026-27, with the ability to support more people in a cost-effective manner within the overall annual humanitarian program allocation cap.

The Government will work closely with the settlement and community sector to design the permanent program, including running a competitive and transparent process to select the organisation to administer the program into the future.

Quotes attributable to Assistant Minister Hill:

"Thank you to the many Australians who have made the pilot a success, welcoming people to Australia and helping them to set up their new life here.

"Community refugee sponsorship has rightly enjoyed support right across the Parliament and in communities because it works. CRISP will now be a permanent and valued feature within Australia's overall humanitarian program."

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