

**6.4 JOINT STATEMENT ON CHANGES TO STATUS RESOLUTION SUPPORT SERVICES (SRSS)**

Submitting Councillor: Cr Fergeus

**MOTION**

*That Council:*

- 1. Endorses the Joint Statement against changes to Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS);*
- 2. Continues its involvement in advocating for people seeking asylum, and joins the Executive of the SRSS Mayoral Taskforce, along with Brimbank, Greater Dandenong, Moreland, Yarra and Darebin Councils.*

**BACKGROUND**

The Statement represents the agreed view of local government bodies across Victoria that formed a Mayoral Taskforce to discuss the proposed changes to SRSS.

Changes to the Federal Government's SRSS will cut income and case management support of many people seeking asylum and dramatically increase the demand for material aid resources at the local municipality level. This action will leave many people destitute and requests for places to live, money for clothes, food and medicine will escalate and create increased demands on existing services.

At the May 2018 meeting Council resolved to write to the Minister for Home Affairs to advocate against the changes to the SRSS program as part of a regional advocacy response led by the City of Greater Dandenong.

Cr Josh Fergeus attended the Mayoral Taskforce meeting on 31 July 2018 to discuss the Statement with Councillors and Officers from Councils including Greater Dandenong, Mildura, Brimbank, Moreland, Port Phillip, Yarra, Darebin, Moonee Valley and more.

**CONCLUSION**

At the initiation of Officers, Council has taken the first step to participate in advocacy around changes to the SRSS. The City of Greater Dandenong is now requesting further input from Councils including Monash to the future shape and direction of the advocacy campaign. Monash should join with other Councils to continue to pursue this important issue.