

OFFICERS REPORT**SUPPORT FOR PALM SUNDAY WALK**

Submitting Councillor: Josh Fergeus

MOTION

That Council:

- 1. Reaffirms its status as a Refugee Welcome Zone City.*
- 2. Joins with Australia's international aid organisations, faith groups, unions, other Councils, and community organisations in proudly supporting The Palm Sunday Walk for Justice for Refugees.*

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications for the Palm Sunday Walk Sunday 14 April, 2019.

IMPACT ON INTERNAL RESOURCES

There is no impact on internal resources as a result of this motion.

COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES

This motion strongly aligns with Council's 'A Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017 - 2021'. In particular, the recommendations support the priority engaged, confident and connected - belonging, which seeks 'to engage and support those that are isolated in our community with a particular focus on newly arrived and temporary residents'.

Council has made a significant commitment through the adoption of "A Healthy and Resilient Monash Integrated Plan 2017-2021 to strive towards a healthy, resilient and socially inclusive diverse community. Council actively promotes inclusion of those who may be vulnerable and experiencing isolation including newly arrived and temporary residents.

In addition, the City of Monash signed the Refugee Welcome Zone Declaration in 2002.

A Refugee Welcome Zone is a local government area that has made a commitment to welcoming refugees into the community, upholding their human rights, demonstrating compassion and enhancing cultural and religious diversity in the community.

RELEVANCE TO WORK ALREADY UNDERTAKEN BY OFFICERS OR COMMITTEES

Monash Council has been a leading advocate on multicultural issues, including those relating to support for refugees and people seeking asylum and resettlement in Australia.

Monash officers work closely with a range of non-Government organisations and community service providers through formal networks such as the Monash Multicultural Settlement Services Network to ensure that refugees and asylum seekers living in the Monash area are well-supported.