

6.2 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.*

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

The preamble to the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights calls on "every individual and every organ of society" to promote and respect human rights.

Council is an important organisation in the community and plays a vital role providing leadership on a range of substantive issues.

The Palm Sunday Walk for Justice for Refugees is in support of a fair society that welcomes refugees. The next Walk will take place on Sunday 14 April, 2019.

The City of Monash has made a commitment to welcoming refugees into the community, upholding the human rights of refugees, and demonstrating compassion for refugees as a result of signing the Refugee Welcome Zone Declaration in 2002. Council should therefore support The Palm Sunday Walk for Justice for Refugees in line with these commitments.

RELEVANCE TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES

This report is in line with Council's commitment to multiculturalism and to the principles of human rights, access and equity and social justice. In practice Monash Council has demonstrated this commitment through the following initiatives:

- A Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017-2021
- Council Plan 2017-2021
- Council's position on the Executive of the Mayoral Taskforce on the Status Resolution Support Service (SRSS)

- Being a supporter of the 'Racism it Stops with Me' campaign since its introduction in 2012
- Being a signatory to the Refugee Welcome Zone Declaration since 2002 and as such having Monash declared a Refugee Welcome Zone
- Being a signatory to the Joint Statement in support of allocation of resources to Councils by the Australian Government to provide appropriate responses to the complex needs of asylum seekers living in our community
- Being a strong advocate against proposed amendments to the Racial Discrimination Act by the Australian Government
- Offering support to the Australian and Victorian Governments for the settlement of Syrian and Iraqi refugees in Australia and Victoria