

Monday 18 June 2018

CITY OF RYDE STANDS #WITHREFUGEES DURING REFUGEE WEEK

The City of Ryde has shown its support for refugees across the world with Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, signing a joint statement of solidarity with refugees as part of Refugee Week.

The joint statement has been signed by the Refugee Council of Australia as well as other mayors across Australia who have committed their respective councils to become Refugee Welcome Zones.

The City of Ryde declared itself a Refugee Welcome Zone in 2013 and has since then undertaken a number of programs designed at assisting refugees in the community, including staging regular workshops, support programs and making vital information easily accessible.

Cllr Laxale said he was proud to stand with refugees and promote inclusion in Ryde.

“Ryde is one of Australia’s most culturally diverse communities, with more than 110 different nationalities living in our community, so it is only right that we do everything we can to welcome refugees with open arms,” Cllr Laxale said.

“Welcoming refugees creates opportunities for economic, civic and social growth, while the diversity of experiences and ideas refugees bring spurs creativity and innovation. Given this I am more than happy to sign the Refugee Council of Australia’s joint statement and continue to promote inclusion in the City of Ryde.”

A number of events have already been held this week to mark Refugee Week, with more activities remaining. This includes an evening with Robin de Crespigny who authored the critically acclaimed *The People Smuggler* on Thursday at Ryde Library.

There will also be a talk by Aya Mustafa, a young Iraqi refugee and community leader, Tuesday 26 June also at Ryde Library.

Throughout Refugee Week, the City of Ryde is also encouraging to post their support for refugees on social media with the hash tag #WithRefugees.

[Click here](#) for full details about the City of Ryde Refugee Week events.

[Click here](#) to view the joint statement signed by City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Laxale.