Support for local people seeking asylum

Whittlesea Community Connections works to address disadvantage and encourage community participation and involvement across the City of Whittlesea. We offer a range of services, programs and supports to people in need in our local community. Over a number of years people seeking asylum have come to us for support - seeking information, making social connections, help with understanding and navigating our systems and for practical support. This includes finding housing and second hand furniture, nappies or clothes for a new baby, helping to resolve financial crisis, getting legal advice or support to find work. We have and will continue to support people seeking asylum living with us in the City of Whittlesea, but we don’t receive any specific funding to do so.

The coming months and years will be very challenging for the more than 1,000 people seeking asylum in the City of Whittlesea as they lodge their legal case for protection so they can rebuild their lives where it is safe and begin to integrate into our communities.

This week the Federal Government announced a policy change that will significantly affect approximately 20 households in our area, leaving them without housing or an income. Some of these include families with young children and people who are undergoing medical treatment.

We are committed to helping people in need but need your help to do it. We would love to hear from you if you can offer some accommodation or work, so the people directly impacted by this change have somewhere to live and a means to support themselves.

While we don’t have the capacity to take donations of furniture, food or clothes at this stage, we have included some details of organisations that offer support in our area. Some are generalist providers that support asylum seekers in Whittlesea amongst other people in need and others are specialists focusing on asylum seekers specifically but outside our region. Some may have the capacity to receive donations of in kind support- please check with them.

**Big Group Hug** (Baby Items for all parents in need- including asylum seekers)

**Emergency Relief Providers in Whittlesea**

**Lentara Uniting Care**

**Baptcare**

**Other organizations supporting Asylum Seekers in Victoria**
Working together we can provide a humane response so people seeking asylum can live in peace and freedom and raise their children in safety in our communities.

For more information please contact

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