

Community Consultation March 9th ETHNIC COUNCIL

Questions	Community Response				
	Afghan	Congolese	Iraqi	Sudanese	Bridging Visa
<p>How many people from your community are in Shepparton?</p> <p>Families</p> <p>Young people</p>	<p>Community indicated that up to 1500 Afghani reside in Shepparton.</p> <p>100 families are registered with the Association and there are over 100 single males.</p> <p>The community has large numbers of children and young people</p>	<p>Community indicated that up to 300 Congolese reside in Shepparton.</p> <p>There are 30 families.</p> <p>The community has large numbers of children and young people</p>	<p>Community indicated that up to 4000 Iraqi reside in Shepparton.</p> <p>There are 600 families.</p> <p>The community has large numbers of children and young people</p>	<p>The community can be transient but still number around 1000 people in Shepparton</p>	<p>There are 110 to 115 Bridging Visa holders registered as clients of Red Cross. There may be over 200 in total.</p> <p>Those registered have made applications for Temporary Protection or Safe Haven Enterprise Visas.</p>
<p>What attracted people to come to Shepparton?</p>	<p>The community has been prepared to travel and relocate in search of employment and educational opportunity.</p> <p>The attraction of Shepparton is it is quiet, safe, has good facilities and employment is available in the farms, abattoirs and factories.</p>	<p>The Congolese came to Shepparton as part of a Federal Government Pilot Program and have enjoyed the area because it is quiet, crime free, they feel safe and it is cheaper than metropolitan areas.</p> <p>They have found study or employment opportunities and many work at abattoirs or factories such as Gouge or SPC.</p> <p>Very few work in the farms.</p>	<p>The factor drawing Iraqi to Shepparton include it is quiet, safe, rental is cheap, accessing halal food is simple and there is a critical mass of Iraqi population.</p> <p>Capacity to purchase a building and successfully redevelop into a Mosque is a factor for settlement in Shepparton.</p> <p>Availability of work in the farms and factories is an attraction.</p> <p>A number of Iraqi have relocated to Shepparton to start a business as professionals or tradespersons.</p>	<p>Many have come from word of mouth advice that Shepparton is safe and quiet providing opportunities for employment in farms and factories.</p> <p>Services available in Shepparton such as Ethnic Council and GOTAFE attract members to relocate from the metropolitan area.</p>	<p>The group came to Shepparton to seek employment, and due to a significant Muslim community also many have friends in the local community.</p> <p>Many have led a transient existence.</p>
<p>What are the major issues facing your community?</p>	<p>Changes created by intergenerational issues continue to be a priority issue.</p> <p>Parents are concerned that their children's behaviour is not respectful and there is potential for drug and alcohol use.</p> <p>The changes create tension and occasional conflict within families.</p> <p>Locally education is very good however to access tertiary studies requires relocation to Melbourne.</p> <p>Some health services are only available in Melbourne.</p>	<p>Intergenerational change is a huge issue in the Congolese community creating confusion in families about traditional roles, cultural history, respect and a perceived inability to control their children.</p> <p>The community wants information on understanding how a variety of systems work in Australia.</p> <p>They wish to be better informed on the journey from refugee to citizen.</p> <p>They want support and assistance for their community leaders to ensure connectivity within the</p>	<p>Intergeneration change issues are a community priority. They perceive a disengagement from 18 to 30 year olds who despite some qualifications may struggle to get permanent employment and are not regularly involved in community activity.</p> <p>It concerns the older generation that these young people predominantly male have only informal soccer in the park as a social outlet.</p> <p>Parental response to young people is concern at loss of culture,</p>	<p>Intergenerational change remains an issue that provokes confusion and conflict within families.</p> <p>Traditional family roles are challenged and parents are concerned that their children will be influenced by others to become involved in anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Young people are receiving mixed messages from their parents and community members.</p> <p>Confused young people have dropped out of secondary school and some have moved to Melbourne.</p>	<p>Anxiety caused by the uncertainty of their futures is a substantial issue. Many have family overseas and face being separated for lengthy periods of time.</p> <p>They are isolated from their families and desperate to find work so they can send funds overseas where their families exist in dangerous and vulnerable situations.</p> <p>As single males they are not generally involved with others from their ethnic community which creates isolation from their culture which add to anxiety.</p>

		<p>community and with the mainstream and other communities.</p> <p>In general terms English proficiency is poor for some people which is a significant barrier to economic participation.</p> <p>Accessing appropriate interpreter services at convenient times can be an issue.</p>	<p>language and religion and questions about drug and alcohol use.</p> <p>The community wants to engage in longer term planning to develop a community centre and expanded parking at the Mosque.</p> <p>Poor English skills are seen as a serious barrier to participating in a range of activity including study and employment.</p> <p>Community leaders have identified a deficiency in planning to meet community expectations.</p>	<p>Parents note that young people in Shepparton have not turned to crime however they remain concerned that bad influences will impact their children.</p> <p>The community would like to see a mentoring program for young people introduced to promote leadership.</p>	<p>Public open space around the Victoria Park Lake is a popular meeting place and recreation site and preferable to spending long hours at home.</p> <p>Some have been involved with drugs and self-harm.</p>
<p>Does your community have difficulty accessing services in Shepparton?</p> <p>If yes which ones?</p>	<p>The community would like to have a broad range of tertiary education opportunities available for their children in Shepparton. Finding accommodation in Melbourne for their children to attend university is expensive and many families opt to relocate to reduce costs.</p> <p>Language is a regular barrier impacting on community capacity to access services.</p>	<p>Generally the community has not identified any major issues accessing services.</p>	<p>Accessing transport and appropriate interpreters.</p>	<p>In general the community have no difficulty accessing a range of services. For many issues the community will try to resolve them in house and will only resort to mainstream agencies if they remain unresolved.</p>	
<p>What services do you expect the Ethnic Council to provide?</p>	<p>The community would like the Ethnic Council to provide support services to community members and assist in larger community projects such as expanding the Mosque to incorporate a community centre and landscaping of the burial site at Kialla West.</p> <p>Support for the community to access grants funding is important.</p>	<p>The community expects provision of support services and assistance to the community.</p> <p>The community would like to build a collaborative relationship.</p>	<p>The community expects provision of support services and assistance to the community.</p> <p>Assistance with community planning was identified.</p>	<p>The community expects provision of support services and assistance to the community.</p>	<p>At this point the Bridging Visa group has had little contact with the Ethnic Council but have indicated they would appreciate any level of support.</p>