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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

30 May 2019

### **Strengthening our role as a Refugee Welcome Zone**

Huon Valley Council supports an extended and improved community sponsorship program for refugees.

As a council we have resolved to take part in Amnesty International Australia's My New Neighbour campaign because it aligns with our position as a Refugee Welcome Zone.

Mayor Bec Enders said there had been a significant number of requests from the community for Council to support the Amnesty International campaign.

"Council signed a declaration with the Refugee Council of Australia in 2016 committing to welcoming refugees into our community," Cr Enders said.

"Supporting this campaign is an extension of that.

"We are committed to upholding the human rights of people seeking safe haven in our country, demonstrating compassion for refugees and enhancing the cultural and religious diversity in the Huon Valley.

"We will write to the Prime Minister, the leader of the opposition and the Federal Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs advising them of our decision.

"Council urges them to consider an improved and expanded community sponsorship program as outlined by Amnesty International."

The Community Support Program has a quota of 1,000 places within the existing humanitarian intake for people aged 18-50 who are employable, willing to live and work in the Huon Valley and will be able to become financially self-sufficient within the first year.

**For more information: Mayor Bec Enders (03) 6264 0300**

**Communications & Media Officer**

Huon Valley Council

[communications@huonvalley.tas.gov.au](mailto:communications@huonvalley.tas.gov.au)