RAR national advocacy on refugee sponsorship and resettlement

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The workshop at the 2018 RAR Conference briefed members on sector and RAR work around refugee resettlement in rural/regional Australia.

RAR has commissioned research and is working with potential partners about a new community driven place and needs based approach to settling refugees in country areas.

Improving the current model of community sponsorship is also a priority.

RAR is working with other organisation including Amnesty and Save the Children on an improved model.
Check out http://austrefugeesponsorship.com.au/

Groups that are interested in learning more and contributing to these issues should email: rar.australia@gmail.com

Decision from the AGM which summarises RAR's intentions

Proposal to AGM (unanimously agreed)

That this Annual General Meeting endorses the following RAR position:

1. The 2018/2019 Executive advocates to all political parties

    a)   A doubling of the overall refugee program implemented over three years to at least 32 thousand funded places with at least one half of the increase to be directed to rural and regional areas

    b)   Works with the refugee sector on a new model for Community sponsorship that provides for

    -   Up to 2000 places per year outside of the resettlement program quota

    -   Community responsibility for the first year with an assurance of support in the place of fixed fees and no visa fees

    -   An independent incorporated community organisation to advance and guarantee sponsorships

    -   One third of sponsorship places for rural and regional locations

2. The 2018/19 Executive develops an evidence-based, socially innovative model for the increased program that:

    -   Is based in Australia's humanitarian responsibilities and in the social and economic benefits of refugee settlement to communities and refugees

    -   Identifies the key elements for successful settlement

    -   Provides for structured engagement with communities, businesses and service agencies as a foundation

    -   Can be independently evaluated and tested