



Settlement
Council
of Australia

ABOUT US

The Settlement Council of Australia (SCOA) is the peak body for migrant and refugee services across Australia. We represent over 130 organisations nationally that support migrants and refugees to belong, thrive and have fulfilling lives. We are a trusted source of policy advice, and a thought leader on enhancing the economic and social inclusion of migrants and refugees.

Our network is Australia's single largest body of experts working with migrant and refugee communities. We have leveraged this extensive grassroots network, as well as our Lived Experience Advisory Group, in informing our vision and key asks.

SETTLEMENT POLICY PLATFORM

OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Australian settlement services are working towards a future where all people of migrant and refugee backgrounds belong, thrive and experience fulfilling lives. Migrants and refugees contribute to Australia by enriching its cultural diversity, driving economic growth, and strengthening social cohesion. They bring skills, resilience, and diverse perspectives.

All those who make Australia home will undergo a process of settlement whereby they adjust to life in Australia. The more effectively we facilitate this process the more effectively we realise the intent of our migration and humanitarian programs – a safe, harmonious, and prosperous population. These aims cannot be realised in a vacuum and require intentional policy and programming initiatives.

Effective settlement ensures greater social cohesion and better economic outcomes for all Australians.

OUR SETTLEMENT POLICY PLATFORM

Our Settlement Policy Platform is designed to offer optimum conditions for successful migration and humanitarian programs in Australia.



SETTLEMENT SERVICES AND PATHWAYS

- 1 Settlement services should be **expanded for all migrants and refugees** irrespective of visa pathways.
- 2 Maintain Australia's humanitarian intake at 20,000 places and **ensure the intake continues to grow** to meet our humanitarian obligations in the face of growing human displacement.
- 3 Ensure **complementary pathways** (such as skilled, community sponsored, and student pathways for refugees) are additional to the humanitarian intake, and expand these pathways.
- 4 Standardise and streamline emergency visa processes to ensure equity across conflict zones. Ensure access to basic services for all emergency arrivals including Medicare, work rights, settlement support, and education.

MIGRATION AND SOCIAL EQUITY

- 5 The Multicultural Framework Review report provides an incisive analysis on the state of Australian multiculturalism and charts a path forward for all Australians. We urge the government **to implement all 29 recommendations**, especially urgent action on 10 high priority recommendations.
- 6 Fund targeted activities for migrant and refugee communities to improve equitable access and cultural inclusion including for healthcare, disability services, and domestic and family violence prevention.
- 7 Enhance social cohesion through meaningful programs that address the substantive drivers of discord. This includes by **investing in equitable social and economic outcomes, and programs** that foster a sense of belonging.

EMPLOYMENT

- 8 Increase specialist **CALD and refugee services in Workforce Australia** to ensure better support for migrant and refugee job seekers.
- 9 Establish a centre to **improve the cultural inclusion capacity of employers** to better leverage migrant and refugee talent.
- 10 Establish an **independent body to oversee skills-assessing entities** and their processes.

CONTACT

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