

# Welcoming at the Local Level; A local government forum to celebrate #WhatBringsUsTogether for Welcoming Week 2024

1.00pm - 3.30pm, Monday 16 September  
Hillview Intercultural Centre: 1-3 Hill View Place, Bentley WA 6102



*Local Governments are on the frontline of welcoming newcomers to their community. They play an important role in connecting newcomers to information and supports, as well as building connected, inclusive and harmonious communities where everyone belongs.*

*The global Welcoming Week movement; an annual campaign and celebration to showcase the movement of communities striving to be more welcoming places for all, including migrants, refugees, people seeking asylum, international students and the entire community. The 2024 theme, #WhatBringsUsTogether, is a moment to consider and celebrate the work of advancing a welcoming Australia that happens in communities across the country every single day.*

*To celebrate Welcoming Week 2024, this forum will shine a spotlight on resources and programs that can support local governments to embrace their role in building welcome locally.*

## Event Program

1:00 pm	Welcome to Country
1:10 pm	Event opening - <i>City of Canning Councillor</i>
1:20 pm	Welcoming Cities – <i>Sebastian Geers</i>
1:40 pm	Break
1:50 pm	CRISP Presentation and Q&A - <i>Blaise Itabelo</i>
2:20 pm	Office of Multicultural Interests Presentation – <i>Kate Rowlands, Cath Colvin and Zia Gul Sultani</i>
2:40 pm	Networking and afternoon tea
3:30 pm	Event concludes

*Livestream available for regional participants*

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## Welcoming Cities

Learn about the latest research, standards and resources available to support your local governments welcoming work. Welcoming Cities is a national network of cities, shires and towns dedicated to creating welcoming communities where all people can belong and participate in social cultural, economic and civic life. Currently, 87 Local Councils are members of the Welcoming Cities network across Australia. Representing almost 50% of Australia's population.

## Community Refugee Integration and Settlement Pilot

Learn about how your community can get involved in welcoming refugees through the federally funded Community Refugee Integration & Settlement Pilot. This program allows groups of everyday Australians to welcome refugees into their local community and help them from 'day one' of their Australian journey. The concept of community sponsorship involves everyday people forming a group and working together to prepare for and welcome a refugee family to their local area.

## Office of Multicultural Interests

Learn how the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries supports culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) communities and service providers through the Office of Multicultural Interests (OMI). OMI provides information, advice, funding, training and support to CaLD communities and community organisations. This engagement assists communities to build the strong networks that are needed to maintain and share their diverse cultures and actively participate in all aspects of Western Australian life. OMI also develops strategies and encourages cultural diversity to be embraced and valued, which benefits all.