

## ALGA

### 2016 NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY MOTION

**Motion Title****WELCOMING CITIES****Motion**

*That this National General Assembly supports the “Welcoming Cities” initiative launched by the Scanlon Foundation and Welcome to Australia organisations on 9 March 2016 to support local councils to work together to create more inclusive communities.*

**National Objective**

Migration policy is set at the national level but support for migrants, once located within a community, is generally limited to financial aspects. Bridging cultural and social barriers is left to the local community including Councils to resolve. This situation occurs throughout the country but mainly in capital cities and regional centres.

**Summary of Key Arguments**

The Welcoming Cities initiative seeks to address and embrace the challenges and opportunities of migration. It recognises that cities and municipalities that proactively foster an environment of belonging and participation for receiving communities, as well as new and emerging communities, increase their social cohesion and economic capability and resilience.

Welcoming Cities will foster meaningful collaboration between Australian local governments, and implement evidenced-based approaches to increasing a sense of belonging and participation for all, both in local communities and on a national scale.

It offers the Australian local government sector, for the first time, a relatively well-resourced national sectoral framework and strategy to address cultural diversity arising from recent and anticipated migration at the municipal level.

It is loosely based on the *Welcoming America* model successfully rolled-out in the United States in recent years and will draw on their tools, resources and experience. It is supported by the philanthropic organisation; the Scanlon Foundation.

**Declaration**

This Motion has been endorsed by Whittlesea City Councillors.