



# WELCOMINGCITIES



**The best way for local governments to create inclusive, cohesive communities, together.**

## What is Welcoming Cities?

Welcoming Cities is part of a growing network of more than 135 municipalities around the world – including New York, London, Glasgow, Frankfurt, Adelaide, San Francisco, Christchurch and many others.

Members of Welcoming Cities have unprecedented access to a community of like-minded Local Councils through knowledge sharing, the development of partnerships, celebrating success, and standards and accreditation. We support local governments to advance communities where everyone can belong and participate in social, cultural, economic and civic life.

Details on joining the Welcoming Cities network are overleaf.

For more information and assistance, visit [welcomingcities.org.au](http://welcomingcities.org.au) or contact [info@welcomingcities.org.au](mailto:info@welcomingcities.org.au)

## Case study

### Hume City Council

Hume City Council is an outer-metropolitan Melbourne municipality, and one of the first local government authorities in Australia to officially join the Welcoming Cities network.

The Council plays a central role in promoting social cohesion and welcoming new arrivals to a municipality with one of the highest rates of refugee settlement in Victoria.

In 2017, Welcoming Cities Australia supported Hume City Council's Local Jobs for Local People initiative. The program provides a free service to connect local employers with willing local job candidates. Its primary

aim is to support the transition of unemployed residents into work within their local community.

The holistic approach to local labour market facilitation is just one example of how Local Councils can foster cohesive, resilient and economically healthy communities. By working with local residents, businesses and service providers, the Council has strengthened these relationships and changed thousands of lives for the better.



## Becoming a Welcoming City

Membership of the Welcoming Cities network is a measurable step towards becoming a thriving community. All that's required to join is a signature and commitment from the Council's Mayor or CEO – there is no fee for joining.

Councils join at the "Committed" membership level and can immediately access a range of benefits. As Councils progress through the stages of Welcoming, further benefits and opportunities are made available.

Level	Benefits	Requirement to reach this level (cumulative)
<b>Committed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to the Welcoming Cities network</li> <li>• Access to the Apolitical knowledge sharing platform</li> <li>• Access to Webinars</li> <li>• Advice and support</li> <li>• Assistance in communicating the Council's commitment to Welcoming Cities</li> <li>• Opportunity to be profiled online, at the Welcoming Cities Symposium, and other events</li> </ul>	At this level, Councils simply sign a statement of commitment.
<b>Established</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All of the above</li> <li>• Support to develop and promote case studies that showcase the Council's work</li> <li>• Access to, and partnering with, a Mentoring Council</li> <li>• Consultancy support to assist in projecting a welcoming message</li> <li>• Access to Welcoming Cities' network of contacts</li> <li>• Media support in sharing success stories</li> <li>• Status as an Established Welcoming City displayed</li> </ul>	To reach this level, Councils present a plan outlining the program of work they will undertake to succeed and progress through the Standard.
<b>Advanced</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All of the above</li> <li>• Eligibility for Welcoming Cities' awards</li> <li>• Increased consultancy support</li> <li>• Status as an Advanced Welcoming City displayed</li> </ul>	<p>Advanced Councils are implementing policies, programs and initiatives to commence action.</p> <p>Plans now extend to sustaining these existing activities, as well as meeting future goals.</p>
<b>Excelling</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All of the above</li> <li>• Recommendations from Welcoming Cities to speak at national and international conferences</li> <li>• Status as an Excelling City displayed</li> </ul>	To Excel, Councils must have their policies, programs and initiatives externally assessed, and implement a Welcoming Plan.
<b>Mentoring</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All of the above</li> <li>• Status as a Mentoring Welcoming City displayed</li> <li>• Access to a seat on the Welcoming Cities Advisory Committee</li> </ul>	At this, the highest level, Councils demonstrate tangible evidence of the innovative, positive impact their efforts are having on the community.

\*For further information on requirements for reaching each stage of Welcoming, refer to [The Australian Standard for Welcoming Cities](#).