

Callan Park Welcome Centre



Leichhardt Council is currently exhibiting a Draft Operation Plan for its proposed Refugee Welcome Day Centre in the Wharf Road Recreation Hall, Building 504 Callan Park. You're invited to make a submission on this important humanitarian plan.

Why is Council proposing a Welcome Centre?

Leichhardt Council has extensive experience offering community services to anyone who needs them.

We offer recreation, social support, and community participation programs at the Hannaford, Jimmy Little and Annandale Community Centres.

The NSW Government has agreed to resettle Syrian refugees escaping war. Refugees from many continents are also continually resettled in Sydney and Australia.

We believe it is important to embrace and integrate them into communities across Sydney and NSW, including the inner west.

As a first step, Council has reached an agreement with Settlement Services International and the Justice and Peace Commission to establish a Day Centre at which refugees residing elsewhere in Sydney can access support services.

What will happen at the Centre?

The Welcome Centre will operate Monday to Friday from 8am-6pm, up to 20 weekend days a year in the first year. This will be reviewed after a year.

The Centre will be staffed by a Coordinator, with services provided through Settlement Services International and volunteers. It will offer:

Family Support – to make sure refugees feel welcome and can access the support services they need as soon as they arrive.

Community Building – to help arrivals to integrate into the community, and to allow the community to welcome and support them through volunteering, events and skills development.

Partnerships – to make sure there is long lasting access to things like education and employment opportunities.

Would you like to help?

Council has already received more than 100 offers of support for the Welcome Centre and arriving refugees.

Some of these offers have been from organisations like Settlement Services International, Habitat for Humanity, the Justice and Peace Commission, Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney and many local schools and churches.

Still more have come from individual members of our community, and we would like to thank you all for your compassion and your willingness to do something real to help.

If you would like to offer your help – from teaching English to volunteering in the kitchen to reading to kids, please register your details at www.leichhardt.nsw.gov.au/WelcomeCentreSupport.

Have your say.

Public Meeting: Monday 2 May, 7pm. Balmain Town Hall.

You will find the Draft Operation Plan at:

- www.leichhardt.nsw.gov.au/HaveYourSay
- Council's Customer Service Centre, 7-15 Wetherill St Leichhardt
- Council's Leichhardt and Balmain Libraries.

Submissions close 5 pm Friday 13 May 2016

- Email to leichhardt@lmc.nsw.gov.au
- Post to Erla Ronan, Group Manager Community and Cultural Services, Leichhardt Municipal Council, PO Box 45, Leichhardt NSW 2040.

Please provide your name, address and day time contact number.

For further information please contact 9367 9220.

