



# Community Conversations

## Who are Northsiders with Refugees?

We're a group of local people who are concerned about our Government's treatment of people seeking asylum. We're not part of a political party we just want people to be treated fairly and with the respect we'd hope for if placed in a similar situation.

We believe one of the biggest challenges to getting fairer policies is that most people don't know how the asylum process works and how it impacts on people applying to be refugees.

That's why we've joined an alliance of groups called [#RightTrack](#) who are having conversations with their communities about the process so people can have access to first-hand information and decide for themselves if people are being treated fairly.

## What is a Community Conversation?

A community conversation is centred around audio recordings of a young man's experience of going through the asylum process and his lawyer, provided by the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC) who work with people seeking asylum. The conversation is facilitated by one of our members who use the recordings to prompt the discussion. Conversations focus on our values and how they guide the way we treat each other rather than stats and facts which over complicate the issue for many people.

Conversations usually take about an hour and are suited to around 5 – 8 people who are either already concerned about the treatment of people seeking asylum or come with an

open mind to learn more about it. Conversations *aren't* suited to people who are fundamentally opposed to welcoming refugees.

At the end of each conversation guests are asked to fill out an anonymous survey so we can take their views to our local MPs and candidates in the lead up to the federal election and share the results back with our community.

## Hosting a community conversation

Hosts are people, groups or organisations who want a fairer and more compassionate response towards people seeking asylum.

Hosting a conversation involves setting a date and location, inviting your guests and we'll make sure there is a facilitator available. We can provide you with a host kit which includes a sample invitation which has sufficient background information for guests to understand the purpose of the conversation and what is involved.

We can cater for a one off conversation or if you wanted to host conversations with a larger group or as an event for example as part of a community fundraiser or to raise your profile as a pro-refugee organisation, we can provide multiple facilitators.

*For more information about community conversations please contact Gayle Carr on 0422903830 or Maggie Cowling on 0438298741*