

RELEVANT INFORMATION FOR COUNCIL

FILE: S116523 **DATE:** 24 February 2017
TO: Lord Mayor and Councillors
FROM: Ann Hoban, Director City Life
THROUGH: Monica Barone, Chief Executive Officer
SUBJECT: Information Relevant To Item 8.4 - Community Services Grant -
Settlement Services International - Welcome to Sydney Pilot Project - At
Council - 27 February 2017

That the Lord Mayor and Councillors note the information contained in this memo.

Purpose

To provide additional information in relation to the Welcome to Sydney Pilot Project.

Background

At the meeting of the Cultural and Community Committee on 20 February 2017, further information was sought regarding the methodology and budget for the proposed Welcome to Sydney Pilot Project.

Project information

Many asylum seekers and refugees who settle in Sydney are likely to settle in broader metropolitan Sydney, rather than in the inner city. On first arriving in Sydney, asylum seekers and refugees are supported by settlement services to establish themselves in their local community. This may include, for example, accessing their new community – shops, health services, settling children into school, assistance with learning English, and finding employment. After this initial settlement process, new residents often seek to connect more broadly with their new home, including understanding the culture and traditions, lifestyle and opportunities afforded by Sydney as a whole. This engagement with a new city is important to ensure a sense of connection and wellbeing, rather than ongoing isolation or disengagement.

The project's participants could be individuals, couples or families. In particular, the families and children who participate in the project will be given an important window into the inner city early in their settlement. Settlement Services International's advice is that the experience of the second generation family members is important as their exposure to the broader city will ensure that they become aware of what is possible in their life ahead.

The City of Sydney is in a unique position to connect new residents with the opportunities and activities of the inner city, including low cost and no cost activities such as attending major events, visiting libraries, parks and museums, and learning about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander living culture. These opportunities can initially seem out of reach for people who are under financial and other stress, have experienced trauma and change, who are not familiar with the inner city, and who may not be confident with transport and travel around the city.

The City of Sydney's residents value diversity. The pilot project also seeks to build engagement and connection for the City's residents by offering an opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to the lives of Sydney's new residents.

The project will deliver resources, learnings and an evidence base (through the evaluation) that will enable the project to be replicated within the City of Sydney and by other locations and organisations. The project will develop sharable resources such as project plans, training materials and other resources.

The initial investment in the pilot project will significantly reduce the cost of delivering the program in the future. Settlement Services International anticipates that other organisations will be interested in delivering the program in the future. In addition, the City will be well placed to promote the delivery of the program to other local governments through the 100 Resilient Cities initiative.

The pilot project will be delivered over a 12 month period, commencing with engaging a project coordinator with expertise in community program design and delivery. The project coordinator will be engaged to:

- Design and plan the pilot program in detail and operate a supporting advisory committee.
- Research and write a training program for participants.
- Deliver the pilot program including identifying program participants, organising participant training, linking refugee/asylum seeker participants with City resident ambassadors, developing a program of Welcome events, activities and initiatives that refugees and ambassadors will undertake, providing ongoing support and advice to participants during the program, and managing program expenses (such as reimbursement of volunteer expenses).
- Design and coordinate the evaluation process and evaluation report.

Settlement Services International has set out a budget for the project as follows:

City of Sydney Grant	
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Cost</i>
Project coordinator salary, on-costs, project management and other project costs (travel, IT, telecommunications)	\$83,200
Refugee Welcome Activity costs - 20 volunteers x 12 activities x \$50 per activity (estimated average including activity costs such as entry fees)	\$12,000
Participant out of pocket expenses – 20 volunteers x 12 activities x \$20 per activity (estimated average including for example transport, food/drink costs)	\$4,800
Total	\$100,000
Settlement Services International in-kind contribution	
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Cost (in-kind)</i>
Project evaluation	\$8,000

Advisory committee expenses	\$600
Training costs	\$2,000
Advisory committee member volunteer time	\$2,560
Total	\$17,660

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Approved



Monica Barone, Chief Executive Officer