

Item 16.13

Notices of Motion

Supporting Migrant Workers during Covid-19

By Councillor Scott

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) in March 2020, the Morrison Government announced their JobKeeper and JobSeeker payment programs to support workers, families and individuals during the Covid-19 health pandemic;
- (ii) the Morrison Government excluded all international students, migrant workers, workers on temporary visas and people seeking asylum from both of these programs, leaving over 1.1 million people with no income and no financial support;
- (iii) this has meant that State Governments, local councils and community organisations have had to step up and facilitate stable housing and emergency food relief to those in need, including:
 - (a) the City of Sydney's financial support for many organisations who assist migrant workers and international students; and
 - (b) the NSW Government's \$20M one off package for international students;
- (iv) Democracy in Colour and Welcoming Australia have partnered to encourage councils and the private sector to champion this cause, where the Federal Government has let down these communities;
- (v) the Democracy in Colour and Welcoming Australia campaign requests councils across the country to commit to signing a Mayoral Declaration, committing to explore all options to provide migrants workers, international students, people on temporary visas and those seeking asylum with financial assistance, food vouchers, employment and care packages by partnering with local organisations; and
- (vi) given the City's work in this area, a public declaration of intent to continuing to support those most vulnerable in our communities to ensure that no one is left behind would send a strong message to the other levels of government that more needs to be done; and

- (B) the Lord Mayor be requested to:
- (i) sign the Democracy in Colour and Welcoming Australia Mayoral Declaration;
 - (ii) write to the NSW Premier, Gladys Berejiklian to request that the NSW Government investigate areas and organisations to financially support those excluded from the JobSeeker and JobKeeper packages; and
 - (iii) write to the Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, to request that the Australian Government investigate areas and organisations to financially support those excluded from the JobSeeker and JobKeeper packages.

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