

# An inclusive Canberra

New initiatives for multicultural

communities



Authorised by Matthew Byrne for ACT Labor

## Foreword

Under Labor, the ACT has led the nation in embracing diversity and inclusion. As a community we have shown both the compassion and the capacity to welcome those fleeing conflict and persecution. In 2015 the ACT was the first state or territory to be declared a Refugee Welcome Zone and in 2016 ACT Labor is building on this record.



Labor recognises that one of the major challenges for those new to our community is finding suitable and stimulating work, suited to qualifications earned either in Australia or overseas.

Labor has consulted throughout 2015 and 2016 across the migrant and refugee community and we are proud to commit to a range of initiatives which will increase support for multicultural communities in employment and language study.

These commitments build on work we have done, together with the business community, service organisations and many multicultural leaders and organisations.

Labor understands that our multicultural community is one of Canberra's most important assets. If re-elected we will ensure Canberra remains a city where everyone has the chance to be included, to contribute and to be valued.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Barr". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Andrew Barr**  
ACT Chief Minister

# Support for multicultural communities

A re-elected ACT Labor government will deliver new initiatives to support inclusion among our multicultural communities, in particular responding to employment and English language needs.

## Refugee and asylum seeker job pathway program

This program will build on the Work Experience Support Program (WESP) and associated initiatives such as the refugee Community of Practice which brought together the Canberra Business Chamber, Migrant and Refugee Settlement Service, Multicultural Youth Services and other agencies.

The \$1.2 million job support package includes:

- Targeted support and job matching for refugees and asylum seekers seeking employment opportunities in the ACT, building on a pilot program commenced in 2016
- Resources to foster closer relationships between the ACT business community, government and refugee and settlement service providers.

## Further support for English language programs

Labor will invest an additional \$208,000 for English language programs in the ACT.

This further investment is based on extensive community consultation as part of a recent language policy review and responds to a significant number of ACT residents who don't speak English according to the last census.

We want to make the Canberra we love even better and that means giving Canberrans from every community the chance be involved in all aspects of life in our city. ACT Labor's vision is of a strong, confident and inclusive city.