

#RightTrack

'HOME' CONVERSATION GUIDE

This conversation guide will help you have values-based conversations with members of the community about the Government's cuts to the SRSS program, which provides income support, access to case management and trauma counselling services for around 13,000 people seeking asylum who are living in the community.



SELF: Sharing your experiences, feelings and values with each other in order to connect with each other and build rapport

BEGIN by asking: "So we're asking people today, 'what does 'Home' mean to you?'"

ASK follow-up questions about their experiences of having a secure or insecure home

E.g. "Have you ever worried about your home being that safe and secure place? Have you ever been evicted or worried about not making the mortgage payments and losing the house?"

EXPLORE what's important to them: e.g. family, safety, security, etc.

"It sounds like keeping your family safe is really important to you"

SHARE: respond with your own related experiences and values.

"I've experienced something like that..."

"Yeah, I really resonate with what you said about feeling safe. My home is my safe place where I can just be myself, you know?"



PROBLEM: Name and frame the problem in terms of its impact on real people, who is responsible, and how this violates the values explored in 'self'

BEGIN by pivoting to the problem

"Today we're talking to people about home because unfortunately our Government has decided to completely cut off all income support for thousands of people seeking asylum who are still waiting for their protection claims to be assessed by the Department. Have you heard about that?"

Add detail about the impacts this will have on people

"Without that income support, these people and families, many who live in Sydney, will have no money to pay rent for somewhere to live, and no way to put food on the table. The Government is making them homeless and destitute."

ASK do they think that's fair?

REMEMBER the Explore – Equalise – Elevate formula for handling objections

"Can you tell me more about why you feel that way?" "Yes, I agree – nobody wants people dying at sea..."

EXPLORE together why the Government is doing this *"This has nothing to do with deterrence or stopping people coming by boat. It just seems to be mean-spirited."*

SHARE: you feelings about why this is a terrible thing, and if you know anyone affected

"I've actually become friends with a woman who is affected by this. I'm really worried for her..."

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VISION: Explain and explore a solution that upholds the values you share and meets the needs of the people affected

BEGIN by pivoting to a more positive vision for how people seeking asylum are treated

"I just think that as a community that values fairness we should be giving these people a fair go. And just as we provide really basic support to people who are out of work, sick or unable to work, I think we should be helping people seeking asylum. I mean, they're waiting for their cases to be assessed and that could take years."

ASK: what do you think?

EXPLORE alternatives that do uphold your shared values and meet people's needs

"What do you think is fair? What support should we be providing people while they wait to have their case assessed?"

SHARE: tell them what you hope for – what is your more positive vision?

"I'm really hoping the Government realises how cruel these cuts are and cancels their plans. In fact I'd really like to see some more support, like helping them with job readiness and job placement support so they really can get a job to support themselves and start rebuilding their lives and contributing."



US: move people from interest to action

If the conversation is going well –

ASK them to take action

"It's really important that our elected officials hear from us that these cuts are not OK. We have a petition here from the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, calling on our Government to cancel their plans to cut off this critical support. Will you sign it now?"

INVITE them to come to the 'alternate Refugee Week' event at the Addison Rd Community Centre, or if things are going really well, even to join your new local group to get involved!

THANK them for having a chat with you today!

Resources and more information:

If people want more information, give them this link: <http://bit.ly/srss-briefing>