



MY NEW NEIGHBOUR: TIPS FOR WORKING WITH SCHOOLS

A school community is a great place to start building support for the My New Neighbour campaign! If students, teachers and ultimately the principal of your local school make a public statement in support of community sponsorship, and then the principal writes to your local council about it, this can help persuade your council to support community sponsorship too.

Steps for change:

- Students, teachers and parents support My New Neighbour
- The school principal contacts the local council and lets them know the school welcomes refugees and supports community sponsorship.
- Your local council publicly supports an improved community sponsorship program.

Here's what you could ask your local school to do to start creating change:

- Host a movie screening for students to educate them about refugee rights.
- Collect petition signatures and encourage students, teachers and parents to sign.
This is a good opportunity to talk to people about welcoming refugees and demonstrates support to others.
- Show local leadership by having the principal make a public statement welcoming refugees and community sponsorship.
- Write to the local council asking them to show leadership and pass a motion in favour of community sponsorship.
- Make a video showing their support for refugees and send it to the local council and the MP in that electorate.
- Send students who feel very passionate about the topic to meet with the council and discuss the issue.
- Declare the school a refugee welcome zone and throw a welcome party to celebrate.
- Your school can approach the local paper to make sure the message spreads throughout the wider community.
- Approach other schools and ask them to follow them in the spirit of welcome.
- Arrange a visit from Amnesty International's schools team.

The My New Neighbour campaign is about people power – building community support for an improved refugee sponsorship program – and then demonstrating that change to political leaders.

Read more about community sponsorship for refugees at www.amnesty.org.au
Found this tipsheet useful? [Consider making a regular donation.](#)

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