



LEADERSHIP IS ABOUT HAVING THE COURAGE TO TAKE THE FIRST STEP AND RECOGNISE WHEN WE MUST SET AN EXAMPLE FOR OTHERS

What is it?

The Friendly Nation Initiative is a strategy that galvanises Australian businesses to provide employment, mentoring, internship and work experience opportunities to refugees.

Employment is a crucial step in the process of settling in Australia. Through work, refugees become self-reliant and empowered to build a future for themselves and their families.

The Friendly Nation Initiative supports businesses by facilitating a national community of practice, giving employers a peer network of support, that provides a forum to develop and share best practice in refugee employment.

Employers have access to expert support and advice, and the information, tools and resources they need to successfully welcome and integrate refugees into their workforces.

*No one leaves home unless home is the
mouth of a shark, you only run for the border
when you see the whole city running as well*

- Warsan Shire

Why support us?

Globally, there are 25.4 million refugees in need of assistance. More people are refugees today than at any time since the end of World War Two. It is imperative that, as a wealthy and peaceful nation, Australia plays its role in providing humanitarian assistance to those people most in need.

Participating in the Friendly Nation Initiative gives businesses the opportunity to become leaders and play an active role in the resettlement of refugees. Giving refugees a fair go is a win-win. Businesses can benefit from including a cohort of workers who are highly motivated to succeed, bring insight into customer needs, and contribute diversity of thinking into solving problems. Having a job gives the newest members of our community an opportunity to achieve economic security, experience feelings of belonging, and be empowered to fully participate and contribute to civic life.

The business world has many ways to contribute and commit to assistance. This network is the start of a process that recognises the responsibility Australian business leaders have, alongside government and community leaders, to tackle this global crisis.

The Australian Industry Group is a proud supporter of this initiative. Together, we are working to improve the refugee employment infrastructure in Australia.



How to get involved?

Join our community of practice: Access a network of peers, an online forum to workshop issues as they arise, and regular gatherings to share common experiences, support and learn from each other.

Get support to develop a refugee employment program: The Friendly Nation Initiative recognises that every business is unique and needs a tailored and business-focused approach. We work with employers and a network of refugee employment services to find the right people for the right positions and ensure ongoing support for both employees and the employer.



Contact

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