



## FUNDING SOUGHT TO HELP ASYLUM SEEKERS FIND REFUGE

**Thursday, 21 April 2016**

Local community organisations will launch a crowdfunding campaign on Tuesday 26 April 2016 to help Asylum Seekers in the Geelong region apply for protection visas.

The Seeking Refuge Project, a partnership between seven community groups, is looking for \$70,000 in donations to fund vital interpreter services for Asylum Seekers navigating the complex protection visa application process.

Approximately 300 Asylum Seekers in the Geelong area will be invited by the Federal Government to apply for protection visas over the next three years.

Seeking Refuge is arranging workshops to help Asylum Seekers complete their applications, but Project Coordinator and lawyer Marijana Graljuk said most Asylum Seekers would require the support of an interpreter to ensure information is accurately recorded. Each application takes several hours to complete at a cost of around \$465 in interpreting fees per application.

“Our volunteer team of Migration Agents and administrative assistants can provide migration law advice and practical help to the Asylum Seekers in our community, but professional interpreters are essential so that the Asylum Seekers and volunteers can understand each other,” Marijana said.

“Without access to professional interpreters, Asylum Seekers will find it difficult to understand the requirements of the application process.

“Professional interpreters will provide Asylum Seekers with the best chance of completing their application correctly so their claim for protection can be reasonably assessed.”

The Seeking Refuge crowdfunding campaign “Seeking Refuge” will run at [www.pozible.com/seekingrefuge](http://www.pozible.com/seekingrefuge) from 26 April to 31 May 2016.

“Seeking asylum is a human and legal right but it is a difficult process to go through without understanding the language on the application form or how to access help. We need a lot of money for this project and every little bit helps, so please donate what you can,” Marijana said.

“There are some great rewards for donating and all donations over two dollars are tax deductible. Donating has also been scientifically proven to make you feel great, so go on and give it a go!”

The Seeking Refuge Project is a partnership between Bellarine for Refugees, Barwon Community Legal Service, the Wesley Centre for Life Enrichment, Diversitat, the Combined Refugee Action Group Geelong, Refugee Legal and the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre, and is supported and facilitated by Deakin University.

**Media contacts:**

Marijana Graljuk  
Barwon Community Legal Service  
P: 1300 430 599

Nick Hudson  
Barwon Community Legal Service  
P: 1300 430 599  
M: 0411 343 722