



What is Welcoming Week?

Welcoming Week is an annual campaign that celebrates communities that strive to be more welcoming to all people, including migrants, refugees, people seeking asylum and international students.

Launched in 2012 by Welcoming America and its members, it is now a global movement that brings communities and neighbours of all backgrounds together to build strong connections and affirm the importance of inclusive places. More information is available on the [Welcoming America website](https://www.welcoming.org).

We acknowledge that Welcoming Week events in Australia will be hosted on the unceded lands of First Nations. We recognise the generosity and important role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in the work of Welcoming Week and aim to build on this in future years.

In 2022, Welcoming Australia will host Welcoming Week for the first time, building on our global partnerships to showcase and highlight the amazing work of our member councils, partners and friends across Australia.

Welcoming Week will take place from 9 - 18 September 2022



Palmerston North City Council Welcoming Week 2020



More Information:

www.welcoming.org.au/initiatives/welcoming-week or kate@welcoming.org.au



How Can Your Community Get Involved?

This is the first year Welcoming Australia will formally celebrate Welcoming Week, and we don't want to be prescriptive about how organisations should engage with this opportunity. We want to work with you to showcase the incredible work already taking place in your communities and see this year is our launch year. Together we will explore some simple ways to demonstrate a commitment to creating and celebrating welcoming communities.

The following ideas are examples to explore during, or in the lead up to Welcoming Week. This list is not exhaustive, and we would love to hear other ideas to implement in future years. You might like to:

Issue a Welcoming Week Proclamation or Resolution:

- Share how your community celebrates places #WhereWeBelong - make a media statement or share a video on social media
 - Welcoming Australia will produce and share a video compilation of community leaders sharing messages of belonging and inclusion to share throughout Welcoming Week

Use social media and your networks to amplify welcoming movements in your local area:

- Use Welcoming Week to highlight the welcoming and belonging work taking place in your community
- Use [Welcome Merchant](#) to find a refugee-led business near you. Host a team lunch at their venue or showcase their work on your digital platforms.
- Share census data that celebrates the diversity of your council area.
- Share Welcoming Week resources - you can find digital assets hosted on [Welcoming Australia's website](#).

Host or attend an event near you:

- Organise a community mural or [chalk walk](#).
- Host an event about voting in preparation for upcoming local government elections.
- **Visit www.welcomingweek.org to find a virtual event or event near you!**



Key Messages: These messages can be used for internal communications, on social media, and in official speeches

International Messages

- The theme for this year's Welcoming Week is "Where We Belong" and focuses on the places and spaces that foster belonging (e.g our cities, workplaces, neighbourhoods, schools, places of worship, etc).
- #WhereWeBelong aims to spark reflection on how and why belonging occurs, and ways to break barriers to foster belonging for all those who call Australia home.
- The purpose of Welcoming Week is to elevate a spirit of unity that shows the successful intercultural democracy we can be if everyone truly belongs in the places they call home.

Local Messages

- Welcoming Week is a time when a chorus of thousands – in communities large and small, rural and urban—celebrate the benefits of an inclusive and welcoming society and deepen their commitment to creating places where everyone can belong, contribute and thrive.
- Welcoming Week is an opportunity to celebrate the values that unite us, and to make our communities more welcoming to all those who call [Australia/our state/council area] home.
- From First Nations to our newest neighbours, we all deserve places #WhereWeBelong
- We acknowledge that we live, work and play on the unceded lands of First Nations. Welcoming our new neighbours is led by First Peoples and Traditional Custodians.

Short Messages

- Building inclusive and integrated communities makes us stronger.
- Creating inclusive and welcoming environments where everyone can thrive and belong.
- Welcoming our new neighbours creates strong and diverse communities.