

# Media Release

**The Hon Colin Brooks MP**  
Minister for Housing  
Minister for Multicultural Affairs



Friday, 21 April 2023

## VITAL SUPPORT FOR THE ASYLUM SEEKER RESOURCE CENTRE

The Andrews Labor Government is providing vital support for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC) making sure it can continue to provide essential services to refugees and those seeking asylum in Victoria.

At a visit, Minister for Multicultural Affairs Colin Brooks today announced a one-off grant of \$500,000 to support the ASRC and its frontline staff to continue to provide a range of critical services for vulnerable communities in Victoria including food relief, legal advice and representation, and social services.

The grant will allow the centre to continue to deliver its essential food bank support, as well as funding the roles of frontline legal services, bicultural workers and social workers.

Founded in 2001, the ASRC is Australia's largest human rights organisation providing support to people seeking asylum.

The independent not-for-profit organisation has responded to increased demand for its services following the onset of the pandemic, combined with a decline in public donations.

The centre provides holistic end-to-end services for thousands of people seeking asylum from when they arrive in Australia until their visa outcome.

The new contribution comes in addition to significant funding from the government to the ASRC, including through the Working for Victoria employment program, the Improving Health Access and Outcomes for refugees and Asylum Seekers budget initiative and the COVID-19 mental health support package.

To make a contribution to the ASRC, visit [donate.asrc.org.au/donate](https://donate.asrc.org.au/donate)

### **Quote attributable to Minister for Multicultural Affairs Colin Brooks**

*"The Asylum Seeker Resource Centre is an essential champion for the rights of refugees and people seeking asylum – we're proud to be able to support the Centre during its time of need."*

### **Quote attributable to Member for Footscray Katie Hall**

*"The ASRC plays a critical role not just in Footscray but across our state - this support means they can continue to provide critical services like food relief, legal advice, representation and social services."*