



26 April 2018

Hon Peter Dutton MP  
Minister for Home Affairs  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

**City of Greater Dandenong advocacy against cuts to the Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS) program**

I am writing to you on a matter raised and a resolution adopted by the City of Greater Dandenong Council at the Council meeting of 23 April 2018.

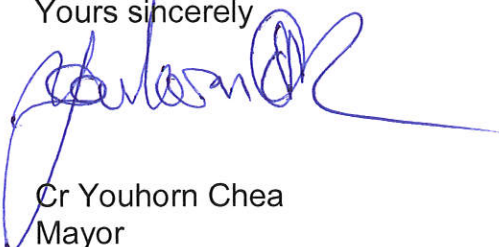
Council has become aware of proposed changes to the Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS) program where SRSS recipients who are assessed as being job ready will be forced to exit the program from 4 June 2018, losing all income, casework and allied supports.

Greater Dandenong, as the most multicultural municipality in Australia, has almost 2,000 people seeking asylum living in our community awaiting a decision on their claim for asylum. Due to the narrow list of exclusions there is a strong concern that the majority of these people will be severely impacted by the proposed changes.

Accurate job readiness assessment for sustainable employment is difficult to evaluate particularly when conducted by those untrained in employment consultancy. People seeking asylum assessed as job ready will continue to face significant, if not impossible, challenges in finding employment. As a local example, they would be competing directly with job seekers in an area already affected by high levels of unemployment. Loss of income and case management support will only accentuate the effects of torture and trauma, language and cultural barriers, and the ongoing uncertainty of their protection claim.

The proposed changes to the SRSS program will erode the social cohesion that Australia has invested so much in achieving and Council on behalf of the Greater Dandenong community implores that the decision to implement these changes be reversed.

Yours sincerely



Cr Youhorn Chea  
Mayor