

Afghans who have had to leave their lives and loved ones behind need to know that Australia is glad to have them, that we will support them and help them build a fulfilling future in Australia.

There will be various opportunities to assist newly arrived people from Afghanistan, especially as COVID 19 restrictions ease. Meanwhile, the need for financial donations is high.

The International Committee of the **Red Cross and Red Crescent has been in Afghanistan for over 30 years, and has remained on the ground.** They are: treating wounded in Red Cross/Crescent health centres and hospitals and providing critical humanitarian assistance. In Australia they are working with people from Afghanistan who are currently living in Australia to reconnect with missing family members. They are appealing for donations at <https://www.redcross.org.au/news-and-media/media-centre/media-releases/red-cross-launch>

Here in Australia, there are several experienced groups who are advocating for and supporting Afghan refugees, including the **Refugee Council of Australia**, which highlights the Afghan plight on their website <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/states-step-up-for-afghan-humanitarian-arrivals/>

Community Refugee Sponsorship Australia's (CRSA) Group Mentorship Program offers a practical way to provide future hands-on support to an Afghan household recently evacuated to Australia or other refugees already in the country. CRSA is in the process of organizing mentor training programs, information is at <https://refugeesponsorship.org.au/what-we-do/group-mentorship-program/>.

Information about community sponsorship of refugees is also available on their website: <https://refugeesponsorship.org.au/>

Access Community Services and Settlement Services International (SSI) have merged to create a more national body to support newly arrived people settle in Australia. <https://www.ssi.org.au/get-involved/volunteer>
And <https://www.accesscommunity.org.au/>

Many **Adult Migrant English Programs** include volunteer programs to help newly arrived migrants work with with native English speakers to: develop their English and Digital skills, make friends and settle into life in Australia. The program is delivered around the country at some 300 locations, providing free language tutoring. While some classes are face-to-face, classes are also provided online and remotely through distance learning. <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/settling-in-australia/amep/about-the-program>. Navitas English, based in Sydney's southwest and Canberra, is an example of a volunteer opportunity: <https://www.navitas-english.com.au/careers-and-volunteering/volunteering/>

The Department of Home Affairs continues to update information about visa options available to Afghan nationals, both within Afghanistan and those who are in other countries and Australia <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-and-support/afghanistan-update>

Additional information: UN High Commission on Refugees <https://www.unhcr.org/en-au/afghanistan-emergency.html>