



13 December 2016

Guy Barnett, Minister for Resources

Welcoming new refugee families

Today I was privileged to welcome individuals and families to their new Tasmanian home.

I met with some of the families recently arrived from Syria and Iraq and heard their stories – all are moving and inspiring.

I am proud that as a Government, and a community, we have come together to help these people who have fled the war-torn region of the Middle East

Tasmanians are known for their compassion and great sense of community.

And we have always valued our new arrivals and the contribution they make to Tasmania in strengthening communities and helping to build a socially inclusive society.

Settlement service providers and volunteers are already providing great support to our new arrivals. The Government's Safe Haven Hub is operational and the Department of Education has established an Intensive English program for the new arrivals.

To date 18 Syrian and Iraqi new families have arrived in Tasmania. In due course 200 Syrian and Iraqi refugees are expected to settle in Hobart. Our new families join an existing Syrian community of around 300 people, many of whom arrived in the 1970s and 80s.

We will be doing all we can to help these families settle into their new lives.

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