

13 September 2021

Alex Hawke Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs Parliament House CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Alex Hawke,

Thank you for recently establishing the Advisory Panel on Australia's Resettlement of Afghan Nationals, co-chaired by Paris Aristotle and Alison Larkins.

The membership of the panel, including a senior official in the Department of Home Affairs, is a strong indication that the Australian Government understands the benefits of long-term support for Afghan refugees to enable them to become part of the Australian community.

We are particularly pleased with your commitment to work with the Advisory Panel to identify the best ways to bolster legal and trauma support services, as well as ensuring that settlement support programs will have the capacity to respond to both the immediate and ongoing needs of Afghan humanitarian entrants.

We are grateful that the membership of the Advisory Panel is actually representative of Afghan community groups in Australia as well as settlement and migrant-specific services and support organisations, rather than political appointments.

We look forward to following the work of the Advisory Council and sharing, across our networks, the various ways Australians can contribute to the settlement of Afghan refugees.

Sincerely,

Rea Juberch

Ann Zubrick Presiding Clerk The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Australia

**Australia Yearly Meeting** 

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