



## **LETTER RE: COVID-19 RESPONSE FROM THE WELCOME DINNER PROJECT**

Dear Welcome Dinner Project community,

We understand that some of you have been a part of the Welcome Dinner Project for many years while others have only recently registered their interest in attending or hosting a dinner. We are grateful for your willingness to be involved, however, in light of the COVID-19 crisis, the Welcome Dinner Project would like to advise that we will be postponing all up-coming Welcome Dinners nationally and suspending the planning of any more Welcome Dinners until this crisis subsides. We will reassess this suspension on 30th June 2020. It is our highest priority to ensure the health and wellbeing of both newly arrived and established Australians as well as our wonderful team of coordinators and volunteer facilitators.

Our thoughts go out to those who are directly impacted by this crisis. In these unprecedented times we are encouraged by daily accounts of extraordinary acts of kindness, courage and ingenuity and we want to thank each and every one of you for doing your part to keep our communities as safe and well as possible. As we navigate this moment together may we hold fast to the belief that underpins the Welcome Dinner Project: that we are indeed all interconnected and that we have more in common than we have differences.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We know that The Welcome Dinner Project will be needed more than ever after this crisis so we will be using this time to work on building our capacity and future strategy.

We have some ideas brewing to help turn this time of physical distancing into a time of deep human connection, so watch this space, welcome will find a way!

With love and best wishes for everyone's health and safety during this difficult time,

The Welcome Dinner Project team