

CPD welcomes release of Shergold Review and its blueprint for investing in refugees and in Australia

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The Centre for Policy Development (CPD) welcomes the release of “*Investing in Refugees, Investing in Australia*”, the findings of the Review into integration, employment and settlement outcomes for refugees and humanitarian migrants to Australia, chaired by Peter Shergold AC.

“The Shergold Review confirms all Australians benefit when refugees are fully welcomed into our workplaces, economies and communities”, said Travers McLeod, CEO of CPD “and how Australian employment, language and settlement services have let them down.”

“Professor Shergold, Kerrin Benson and Margaret Piper have offered a comprehensive blueprint for how Australia can settle refugees better and help them to thrive. They shine light on what a more dignified and effective approach looks like, and how this can deliver a huge dividend for refugees, their families, and Australian communities.”

“CPD is pleased to see key recommendations from our 2017 report, *Settling Better*, and our Cities and Settlement Initiative embraced by the Shergold Review’s findings. These include a centre of gravity for better coordination of services in Canberra, comprehensive reform of employment and language services, and much greater investment in place-based approaches.”

“Releasing the Shergold Review, however belatedly, is an important first step. Its principles and recommendations were based on wide consultation, and should resonate with Australian communities. It can now inform discussions on how to best settle our most vulnerable arrivals.”

“It is disappointing the Review, which was finalised in February, has only been released publicly now. The good news is the Review makes it clear Australia must continue to select refugees on the basis of humanitarian need, and offers a positive step-change for how Australia can help them to rebuild their lives in their new homes.”

“The Federal Government’s initial response is encouraging, but the proof will be in the doing. Much more will have to be done over the coming months to transform services and make them more effective at the local level. Waiting for the new *jobactive* model to come into effect in 2022 will not help to boost refugee economic and social participation.”

“The new national Coordinator-General is a promising start, but only if the appointee has sufficient independence and authority to connect services, work directly with state and local governments, pool funding from failing service systems like *jobactive*, bring employers to the table, and ensure service providers work better together.”

“Greater focus on communities and place-based approaches, including new trials, must be underpinned by investment in public capability at the local level to coordinate effective services and replicate promising practices. The community deals model can boost participation, jobs, language skills, business creation, social networks and wellbeing, but only if there are genuine partnerships between governments of all levels, industry and communities.”

“Releasing the Shergold Review is the right start, but the hard work has only just begun.”

Further Background

[CPD submission to Shergold Review](#)

[CPD’s Cities and Settlement Initiative](#)

[Settling Better: Reforming Refugee Employment and Settlement Services \(2017\)](#)

Media Contact: Allison Orr | T: 0423 602 771 | E: allison.orr@cpd.org.au