

MEDIA RELEASE | 20 June 2020

## **Democracy in Colour is calling for the inclusion of people seeking asylum in wage subsidy**

This Refugee Week, national racial and economic justice and advocacy organisation Democracy in Colour is calling for a **wage subsidy that includes refugees and people seeking asylum** in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, declaring solidarity with those seeking asylum in Australia.

The organisation's [campaign to extend JobKeeper and JobSeeker](#) to all is calling on the Federal Government to extend JobSeeker and JobKeeper Payments alongside the Coronavirus Supplement and Economic Support Payments in a wage subsidy for all.

There are 1.1 million people living in Australia currently excluded from financial support, which includes refugees and people seeking asylum, migrant workers, international students and Temporary Visa Holders.

[Information about eligibility for social security during COVID-19](#) created by the Refugee Council of Australia shows that people seeking asylum have no access to social security during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

### **Neha Madhok, National Co-Director of Democracy in Colour, says:**

"We need to stand with everyone who calls Australia home during this pandemic. That means supporting people seeking asylum, refugees, migrant workers, international students and those on Temporary Visas.

"We are all witnessing and experiencing the full force of the social and economic shocks from the coronavirus pandemic, but it is the people seeking asylum, refugees, migrant workers, international students and those on Temporary Visas who are being left behind without access to employment, healthcare, secure housing and food.

"We consistently hear from people of colour who are living in fear because they have experienced racial attacks, cannot afford more than one meal a day, and are being evicted from their homes.

"Democracy in Colour is advocating for a wage subsidy for all. We're elevating the voices of those affected and calling on local, state and territory and Federal governments to extend income support payments and wage subsidies to everyone who needs them at this time.



*Democracy in Colour is a national racial and economic justice organisation led by people of colour. It runs campaigns that tackle structural racism and build the power of people of colour to shape the critical issues that affect our lives.*

## **DEMOCRACY IN COLOUR**

"Local, state and territory governments have introduced funding support packages for international students, migrant workers, Temporary Visa Holders and migrant owned small businesses, but we need a national coordinated response from the Federal Government.

"The Federal Government must step up and provide life-saving income support payments and wage subsidies to the people who need it most by extending the Federal JobSeeker and JobKeeper Payment Schemes.

**CONTACT PERSON: ALIYA AHMAD 0428684307 OR [aliya@democracyincolour.org](mailto:aliya@democracyincolour.org)**



*Democracy in Colour is a national racial and economic justice organisation led by people of colour. It runs campaigns that tackle structural racism and build the power of people of colour to shape the critical issues that affect our lives.*