

In Search of Safety

Welcome Toolkit: Ways to take action to grow a more welcoming Australia



Every day, around the world, people leave their home in search of safety.

Whatever the reason, everyone deserves a safe and welcoming place to live. Through the *In Search of Safety* program, Australian Red Cross has conversations with young people around the country discussing why people seek asylum, what it feels like, how people come to live in Australia, and what life is like after arriving. Our aim is to ensure communities understand, welcome and support new migrants.

At Red Cross, we love seeing people act for humanity. Many participants in our sessions ask us how they can help. We hope these ideas, suggested by students around Australia, can help young people get going on helping new members of their community feel like they belong.

Let's get started...



Who this action kit is for:

This kit is designed for students who want to take further action to welcome people seeking safety and new migrants after the in-class component of the *In Search of Safety* program. Whether you want to take steps personally or get your whole community on board, this kit provides ideas for action to support you in making a difference.

How to use this action kit:

Use this kit to inspire action around welcoming new people to your school and community. There are 21 ideas in three categories for you to take action on.

The first category are things you can do by yourself to spark change – these are small, sometimes simple tasks that don't require a lot of effort. The second category are things you can involve your family and friends in to help spread the word and connect with others. The third category are larger actions that you can take with your school or in your community to let new people know that they are welcome.



FOR TEACHERS: you can use this kit to complement the in-class component of the *In Search of Safety* program. Choose activities to encourage your students to build on the knowledge shared by Red Cross in class and foster humanitarian action.

MYSELF

Actions to take on your own

1. Offer friendship. Offering to be friends with a new person is one of the best and easiest things you can do. Say hi to someone new or invite them to have lunch or play with you.
2. Share your smile with others. A smile is the same in every language.
3. Ask new people to teach you their favourite games and play with them. Not only will you make new friends, you'll learn a new game as well!
4. Volunteer to be a buddy. Volunteer to introduce yourself to new students, show them around school, and be their go-to person for any questions.
5. Help new students practice their English. You can also learn some phrases in their language!

6. Write a welcome letter for new arrivals and post it to Red Cross. We'll distribute these letters to newcomers to Australia.

Mail your letter to:
**Attn: In Search of Safety
Australian Red Cross
110 Goderich Street
EAST PERTH WA 6004**

7. Write a welcome letter to a new person at your school. Share your favourite things about your school and community with them - maybe some places to go and things to do!
8. Learn about a new culture and language. Take some time to research about the culture of a person from a background different to yours in your community.



“Help newly arrived people with what they need and invite them to things so they don’t feel excluded or alone.”

“Instead of being afraid to talk or play with a person new to Australia, go up with a smile on your face and speak to them so they know our country is awesome.”

MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Actions to take together

1. Share a fact you learned in your Red Cross session with someone else. Pick one or two facts that you found most interesting and share them with your family and friends outside of school.
2. Explore Red Cross' website with your parents to find out more about refugees and people seeking asylum together. Get started by visiting [redcross.org.au/in-search-of-safety](https://www.redcross.org.au/in-search-of-safety)
3. See how many people you can quiz using the "Unpack the Facts" Humanitarian Quiz Challenge. Discuss each answer with your family and friends.
4. Invite a new family in your community to share a meal with your family. You can even recommend you each share your favourite dish from your culture. Make sure to check with your parents or guardians first!
5. Create a *Welcome* sign and display it in your window to let your neighbours know you are welcoming to new people to the community.



MY SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

Actions to take together

1. Create a sign for your school that says *Welcome* in different languages. Get the art class involved and make it a class project!
2. Organise a fundraiser to support people waiting for their protection visa. Visit [redcross.org.au](https://www.redcross.org.au) and go to Get Involved – Fundraise – Refugees and Asylum Seekers to get started.
3. Organise an event to welcome new people to the country. You can hold your event during Refugee Week, Harmony Day, or at any time of the year!
4. Create a group at your school and work with school leaders to find ways to increase support for new students from diverse backgrounds. You could think about incorporating language support, new foods in the canteen, mental health support, or displaying cultural art and flags.
5. Write to your local community leaders to let them know you care about this issue. Share with them what is important to you and any ideas you might have.
6. Work with local community leaders to find new ways to make new people feel welcome and included in the community. See what services are offered in your community or work together to brainstorm new ones.
7. Recommend new, international games to play at school. Research a popular game from another culture and offer to teach it to your classmates.
8. Create a community cookbook to share with a new family in your community. Collect your recipes from your neighbours and classmates, put them together in a cookbook, and distribute this cookbook to a new family to welcome them to the community.

“My community could have some ‘diversity schools’ teaching people of all ages and ethnicities about different languages, cultures, religions and other things.”



Thank you for helping Australia be a welcoming, inclusive and safe place for all!

If you have any questions, ideas, or want to let us know about how you helped make a difference we would love to hear from you.

E. natinsearchofsafety@redcross.org.au

T. 1800 RED CROSS (733 276)

“They have rights just like any human; they deserve love and respect. We should tell them how valuable they are.”

