



# Group backs safe haven push

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Sept. 6, 2015, 9:51 p.m.

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HUMAN rights activist group the Tasmania Opportunity has voiced support for Premier Will Hodgman's push to bring an extra 500 refugees to the state.



Mr Hodgman announced on Saturday he would push the federal government to bring more people who had been displaced into Tasmania.

The Tasmania Opportunity executive officer David Strong said the announcement was the result of more than one year of research and communication with state leaders.

The organisation gathered with Tasmanian leaders last November at the Statewide Leaders Forum to produce the New Deal For Asylum Seekers document.

The document proposed that Tasmania was an ideal location for hosting Safe Haven Enterprise Visa holders.

Dr Strong said the announcement was an appropriate initial response to the international refugee crisis. "It is commendable that Tasmania respond compassionately and effectively to the hardships and horrors of which we have become painfully aware," he said.

"Tasmania's New Deal For Asylum Seekers embodies Tasmanian and Australian values of protecting the rights of disadvantaged people at home and abroad with a deep sense of morality and justice."

Dr Strong said he looked forward to the arrival of the 500 people with eager anticipation.

"It gives Tasmanians the opportunity to be part of a positive way forward in humanising refugee settlement in the state and national interest," he said.

“We can make the world a slightly better place, by this compassionate step forward.”

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