# Refugees, Cycling in Auckland

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| Every 8 weeks, NZ accepts 180 (approx.) new refugees/asylum seekers into the country, over 1000 people a year.These people arrive in a new country with limited resources and are rehomed all across NZ needing transport.A bike is cheap, sustainable transport, but some of these new immigrants have never had the opportunity to experience life on a bike. Sometimes it’s accessibility, sometimes religious.Auckland Transport, working with the Mangere Refugee resettlement centre, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Aotearoa Resettled Community Coalition, qualified cycle skills instructors, and volunteers, Each intake of Refugees is introduced to Cycling in NZ and given the opportunity to learn to ride a bike.This is a constantly evolving programme with the latest additions being community guided rides (teaching adults about infrastructure being developed around NZ) and a womens only cycling group.Future plans are to engage the Cycling NZ Ride leader programme and provide more information about Community Bike Kitchens that can help connect communities, get people on to, and repair bikes.This programme has the potential to provide sustainable, equitable transport for refugees with limited means as they start a new life in NZ, BUT, the programme is only a small taste of life on a bike before the refugees are homed across NZ.To create long term sustainable transport this programme needs buy in and support from community groups and councils across NZ. |