



Refugee Reflections

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Refugee Education Hui in Dunedin

Canterbury Refugee Council gave a presentation at the Education Hui organised by Ministry of Education in Dunedin in the month of May. The hui was a part of the education conference in preparation of the arrival of the first batch of Syrian refugees in Dunedin.

The city is the new resettlement location and has welcomed the refugees with a very warm welcome. The education hui was planned for the service providers to equip them on the ways to work with refugees.

The Council gave a presentation on the ways schools can work to engage refugee background parents in their children's education. The presentation highlighted the issues faced by refugee parents which can inhibit their involvement in the education

of their children. These are language barriers and cultural issues. For example, in a lot of the refugee cultures teachers are held in high regard and are seen as figures of authority who cannot be questioned.

On the other hand, the kiwi culture is more open and parents are encouraged to ask questions but because of the cultural barriers the refugee parents might have difficulties in questioning the teachers and see it as rude and disrespectful.

The presentation was well received and the Council has plans to give similar talk in different resettlement regions all over the country.





Getting Work Ready!

The Council organised an employment workshop in partnership with the New Zealand Red Cross on preparing refugee background people ready for work. The NZ Red Cross' Pathways to Employment (P2E) programme was the highlight of the workshop where the representatives from the Christchurch office educated the community members about the programme.

The participants were all women raring to find work but need some support in terms of getting interview ready and polishing their CVs which the programme offers.

The P2E programme helps former refugees plan their employment, education, training and career goals and ultimately find work.

The ladies who attended came from different backgrounds and belonged to all ages but everyone shared a similar aim which is to become an earning member of the kiwi society.





From London to Christchurch: Somali TV Crew

The members from Universal TV London visited Christchurch as a part of their journey to film stories of Somali refugee community settled in the city. The crew are a part of the international Somali channel and have been to countries all over Europe such as Switzerland, Finland, and Sweden before coming over to Australia and New Zealand.

In Christchurch they were especially fascinated with the stories of Somali community members' involvement in

supporting people immediately after the quakes. They were also interested to know how the community is connected to the mainstream kiwi society.

Apart from the community members the representatives from refugee service sectors were interviewed as well who shared their experiences of working with the Somali people.





National Refugee Resettlement Forum- 2016

Canterbury Refugee Council was invited to attend the National Refugee Resettlement Forum held in May in Wellington. The theme of this year's forum was Refugee youth: the dual challenge-transitioning to adulthood while settling in New Zealand.

Youth health and wellbeing was one of the highlights of the forum and Zhiyan Basharati, our health coordinator gave a presentation on the challenges faced by the youth.

We are now working to organise and facilitate health initiatives for youth in a medium that resonates with the young people. If you are interested to be a part of it you can email us at; contact@canterburyrefugeecouncil.org.nz

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