



Refugee Reflections

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World Refugee Day Celebrations in Christchurch

Canterbury Refugee Council celebrated World Refugee Day in a fun filled event at their new office in Phillipstown Community Hub.

This year's theme was celebrating the refugee journey and had young people from refugee background share their personal stories in the form of poem, artwork, or speech. There was a short screening of the message from the United National High Commissioner for Refugees' on world refugee day.

The highlight of the event was the presentations made by children from refugee background who shared their journey of coming to New Zealand and their life here.

The event was well received and everyone loved the community vibe and enjoyed the food.





Opening of Mangere Resettlement Centre

Immigration New Zealand opened the newly rebuilt Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre (MRRC). The opening coincided with World Refugee Day. The centre was inaugurated by Prime Minister John Key. The centre plays a significant role in the journey of refugees who first come to New Zealand under the refugee quota. It is their first home where they learn about life in New Zealand and are oriented towards the various services in the country.

Canterbury refugees were represented by Ahmed Tani, the chairperson of the Canterbury Refugee Centre and was one of the invitees to attend the event. He said the event was well organised and the new centre is extremely modern and beautiful. He added that he hopes to see refugees coming to Christchurch soon.





Capacity Building Forum: Working with Refugees

Hagley College along with Canterbury Refugee Resettlement Centre facilitated a capacity building workshop for the organisations and individuals working with refugee families.

The interactive workshop was designed to educate, share best practice, promote knowledge and help organisations and individuals to work with former refugees.

The workshop had presentations from refugee organisations as well as former refugees who shared their experiences both private as well as of working with refugee services.

The aim of the workshop was to aid participants gain understanding on not only the refugee issues but to provide a holistic knowledge of the refugee journey and the impact of refugee experiences.

The training also included cultural competency and how it can be incorporated in working with refugee background people and families as well as how organisations on whole can work with them.

The workshop was well received.

