

CASE STUDY: GIVEN THE CHANCE



Given the Chance is an adaptable employment program designed for refugees and asylum seekers who are ready to enter the workforce

AT A GLANCE



Target Participants

Migrants from a refugee background and asylum seekers



Aim

To provide work experience and the skills necessary for gaining and sustaining employment.



Organisations Involved

Brotherhood of St Laurence and corporate partners



Location

Melbourne, Victoria



Funding

Private funding and philanthropy

Given the Chance assists marginalised job-seekers

to find and sustain work in Australia. It is an initiative of the Brotherhood of St Laurence and supports local employers to grow and diversify their workforce, and foster social inclusion in workplace communities. Key features of the program include:

- Traineeships and apprenticeships provide on the job experience, coupled with essential qualifications for future employment
- Labour hire arrangements provide job seekers with much needed Australian workplace experience, while allowing employers time to identify whether they may be suitable for longer term employment
- Cultural Awareness Training helps develop manager skills to assist with employees' integration into the workplace and provides practical tools and information to help navigate cultural differences that may arise
- Brotherhood of St Laurence Social Support Services can be accessed by Employers and further referrals provided where necessary

As part of its focus on supporting sustainable employment outcomes, Given the Chance provides mentoring both for the employee and the employer to help navigate the transition to employment.

Successful Outcomes:

The Given the Chance Program has educated employers, including large corporations such as ANZ Bank, on the benefits of employing people from diverse backgrounds.

Over the course of the program's long and successful history, 86 per cent of participants have completed it and of these, 91 per cent gained employment.

After successfully completing the Given the Chance Program with ANZ Bank, Peter secured a 6 month contract at ANZ. He was soon identified as the teller making the most business referrals. Peter is thankful for the opportunity and hopes that one day he can return to Sudan and improve their banking practices.

Peter

*28 years old
from Sudan*

For More Information Visit:

<http://www.bsl.org.au/services/refugees-and-settlement/employment/given-the-chance/>

