

CASE STUDY: WORK & WELCOME



Work & Welcome offers new Australians short-term work at a school or business, providing valuable work experience in a supportive Australian workplace.

Work & Welcome offers new Australians

short-term paid work opportunities at a local school or corporate employer, providing participants with valuable work experience in a supportive Australian work environment as an important step towards finding ongoing employment. The participants work in a variety of areas at the hosting workplace and develop new skills and confidence while building support networks and learning about Australian workplace culture.

More than 80% of people participating in the program have gained ongoing employment post-program or have enrolled in further study and training. These outcomes have gone a long way to restoring the hope and dignity of program participants and setting them off to a successful work life in Australia.

For newly arrived migrants and refugees, this highly successful program highlights the importance of having local work experience when trying to secure suitable employment. Participants are also able to build strong professional and personal relationships with staff, students and parents at the schools and gain a sense of connectedness with the community.

Work & Welcome won the 2014 Premier's Cultural Diversity Award in the Education and Training category

Case Study: Nasrin

Nasrin arrived in Australia as a refugee from Iran in 2011 and successfully applied for a position at Mt St Michaels College, a girls' secondary school in Brisbane's inner west suburb of Ashgrove, under the Work & Welcome program. Since taking part in the program, a world of new opportunities has opened up for her.

'Before I got a job through the Work & Welcome program, it was very hard to find employment. I had no work experience in Australia,' said Nasrin, who is a trained IT professional.

'Having this work experience has helped me a lot. I worked for three months as a reception and administration worker and learned many new skills.'

Using the skills and networks she made in Work & Welcome, Nasrin has gone on to secure ongoing employment.

AT A GLANCE



Target Participants

Newly arrived migrants and refugees



Aim

To develop skills and confidence while building networks and learning about workplace culture



Organisations Involved

Multicultural Development Association Ltd (MDA)



Location

Brisbane, Toowoomba and Yeppoon, Queensland



Funding

A partnership with local schools and corporate partners

'I got to speak to other staff about my IT qualifications and employment experience in Iran, and was able to demonstrate to them some of my skills. They all know now what I can do. The school offered me a contract as an IT support worker once I finished Work & Welcome. Now I'm doing work that I was trained to do... it's great!'

Nasrin

from Iran

For More Information Visit:

<http://www.mdainc.org.au/?q=work-welcome>

