

# CASE STUDY:

## Family Harmony Program








Family Harmony Programs empower CALD community leaders to provide new and emerging communities with capacity building that strengthens families and communities.

### Family Harmony Program

Family Harmony Programs are capacity building courses designed to strengthen families and communities. Melaleuca trains and supports emerging leaders from refugee and other newly arrived CALD backgrounds. The leaders then conduct a series of culturally-specific or multilingual workshops for community members to learn practical skills, discuss cultural differences, settlement experiences and learn about Australian support services. The Family Harmony Program began with the FICT program originally developed by STARTTS. It has been adapted to other community development and settlement areas across Australia, including in the Northern Territory where it is implemented by the Melaleuca Refugee Centre.

### AT A GLANCE

- 
**Target Participants**  
 Newly arrived and CALD leaders and community members
- 
**Aim**  
 Family Harmony Programs aims to build the capacity of CALD and new arrival families and individuals by strengthen families and community support networks.
- 
**Organisations Involved**  
 Melaleuca Refugee Centre and STARTTS
- 
**Location**  
 Northern Territory
- 
**Funding**  
 Northern Territory Government Department of Children and Families

FHP is delivered by people of refugee background who work as bi-cultural facilitators. Uniquely, Melaleuca Refugee Centre introduced a module entitled 'Welcome to Country' – an initiative for families of refugee background to get to know and experience Indigenous culture.

- The program offers participants the following topics;
- Cultural differences between Australia and the country of origin,
  - Accessing Support Services
  - Family relationships including Family violence
  - Keeping Kids Safe
  - Australian Family Laws
  - Managing Money
  - Safe Use of Social Media

**Successful Outcomes and Learnings:**  
 Melaleuca Refugee Centre has ongoing working relationships with refugee and migrant communities and their leaders which have been established over the years. By engaging our networks and resources within the communities and ongoing consultations with other service providers, Melaleuca identifies opportunities to develop new Family Harmony Programs.

*“I have learnt that in Australia the law is there to protect everyone and as a family we have to live in harmony with each other and always try to live in a non-violent way.”*

*Participant of the program*

**For More Information Visit:**

<http://www.melaleuca.org.au/>  
<http://www.startts.org.au/services/clinical-services/group-work/fict/>

