



CASE STUDY:

English Programs Assist Refugees & Migrants

SydWest Multicultural Services promotes inclusion and participation with activities that encourage English language skills.

AT A GLANCE



Target Participants
Refugee and humanitarian entrants and other migrants.



Aim
To empower individuals and build the social capital of our diverse communities with access to English language skills opportunities



Organisations Involved
SydWest Multicultural Services



Location
Blacktown, Mt Druitt - NSW



Funding
SydWest is funded through multiple sources

English programs assist refugees and migrants.

SydWest Multicultural Services is a large community services organisation working in the Western Sydney region. They facilitate English language skills for our refugee and other migrant new arrivals through a range of activities, including:

- **English conversation classes:** held weekly to improve the everyday language skills of our clients
- **Social Excursions:** these provide a supportive environment to practice English language skills with other new arrivals and with English-speakers at the various destinations that we visit
- **Homework help:** while all subjects are important and we offer tutoring for primary and secondary school students, it is often English language competency that is a high priority for our young people who attend Study Centre
- Signature projects such as **Navigating Resettlement:** this pilot project worked to explore young people's creativity, study and career aspirations and in doing so, had a key focus on improving English language skills; all the youth involved reported improvements in their language comprehension and use
- **Mothers/Play Groups:** reading time is an important activity in our Families program and all group activities give time to reading – teaching mothers to read to their children, teaching children to build their skills through listening and reading along with their mothers
- **Multicultural community events:** SydWest runs a series of special community events for all members of the refugee/migrant communities of Western Sydney. These provide opportunity for everyone to practice their English language skills with a wide range of people, learning the nuances of dialect and accent as they navigate their way through the English language.

Attending Multicultural Social Support Group in Blacktown has encouraged me to practice my English conversation skills at the shops and when I go to the doctor or the hospital. I now feel confident enough to use English whenever someone calls my number I can answer them over the phone. Without SkyWest's support and learning opportunities, I would not be able to do any English conversation.

Revathi Dwarakanath

*Arrived 2013 from
from India
Taluga-speaking*

For More Information Visit:

<http://www.sydwestms.org.au/>

