

# CASE STUDY: Sewing plus English Program



**Building capacity builds confidence for success.**

## AT A GLANCE



### Target Participants

Refugees and humanitarian entrants



### Aim

To provide vocational training and English language tuition simultaneously



### Organisations Involved

SydWest Multicultural Services and TAFE NSW



### Location

Western Sydney, NSW



### Funding

Funded through multiple sources

## Sewing plus English Program

SydWest Multicultural Services, in partnership with TAFE NSW, offers a program for new Australians from a refugee background to improve their English language skills in a relaxed and supported environment, while also developing sewing skills.

Rima Awad came to Australia from Syria in 2017 under the humanitarian program. She was referred by SydWest and enrolled in the Sewing Plus English program at SydWest.

Rima said she learnt sewing while she was in Syria and assisted her family at home with their sewing needs. When she came to Australia, she wanted to improve her sewing skills and learn English. Rima has improved her sewing skills, including learning new techniques. She has also improved her English language skills, particularly through the conversations and interactions during the classes.

*'I like the Sewing Plus English program because it is like killing two birds with one stone and perfect for me,'* said Rima.

### Successful Outcomes:

- Building capacity and confidence for future success in securing employment and personal well-being.

### Program learnings:

- The benefit of combining English conversational class with sewing vocational training is providing multiple skills and confidence to new arrivals in a timely and efficient manner.

*'I have made new friends and I am now more confident that I will set up my own home business. In the meantime, I hope to get work with a local tailor shop.'*

**Rima Awad**

*from Syria*

**For More Information Visit:**

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

