

CASE STUDY: Fairfield Housing Taskforce

Fairfield Housing Taskforce (FHT) is a collaboration of government and non-government organizations set up to assist and advocate for refugees recently settled in Fairfield LGA.

AT A GLANCE



Target Participants

Government and non-government organizations



Aim

To work collaboratively in resolving settlement issues of newly arrived refugees.



Organisations Involved

CORE Community Services, SSI, Legal Aid NSW, FACS, SWSLHD, Hume Housing, Assyrian Resource Centre.



Location

Fairfield, NSW



Funding

Funded from multiple sources.

Fairfield Housing Task Force (FHT) seeks solutions that will make the tenancy/housing experience easier and more accessible to refugees, keeping in mind limitations in their communication skills and, means their ability to understand and navigate social housing policies and tenancy law.

Two information sessions each month are delivered to newly arrived refugees at Navitas English. These sessions aim to increase awareness among refugees of their rights and obligations under a private tenancy, as well as to provide information about social housing eligibility criteria, waiting list and different types of assistance being offered by social housing providers.

Forums/Workshops – FHT also educates frontline community workers on energy saving strategies, to better assist their clients in reducing household utility bills. To do this, FHT works with experts to deliver sessions on electricity and gas bills, competitive rates in the market, government incentives for efficient electrical appliances, and the EWON (Ombudsman) complaint processes.

Housing Affordability Forum – Another component of FHT's work is to mobilise key government and non-government stakeholders to collectively explore whole of community solutions to housing and tenancy issues faced by newly arrived refugees. In February 2019, FHT organised a highly successful housing affordability forum that attracted experts from a wide range of organisations including Shelter NSW, Tenants Union NSW, Sydney Alliance, Western Sydney Community Forum and CORE Community Services.

Core Community Services • Settlement Services International (SSI) • Legal Aid NSW • Family and Community Services NSW • South Western Sydney Local Health District • Hume Housing • Assyrian Resource Centre

For More Information Visit:

<https://corecs.org.au/>

