

CASE STUDY:

Multicultural Small Business Program



Refugees receive free skills training to help them establish their own businesses as part of new initiative: the Multicultural Small Business Program

AT A GLANCE



Target Participants

Recently arrived migrants and refugees.



Aim

To build business capacity, knowledge of regulation and key skills for running small business.



Organisations Involved

Newcastle City Council, Northern Settlement Services, Navitas English



Location

Newcastle, NSW



Funding

An initiative of Newcastle City Council and Partners

The Multicultural Small Business Program is

a partnership between the Newcastle City Council, Northern Settlement Services (NSS), Navitas English, The Business Centre, and volunteer mentors, aimed to provide aspiring business owners with training in a variety of topics relevant to the establishment and maintenance of small business.

Commencing in February 2017, the Small Business Program currently has a cohort of 20 business men and women from 10 countries who will participate in a ten-week training course designed to familiarise these aspiring business people with Australian regulations and customs, business planning, financial management and marketing.

The workshops will help build capacity to establish and run small businesses, provide ongoing support through mentoring and build the profile of their enterprises

"Migrants to Newcastle, including our most recent arrivals, have brought much needed skills, labour and ideas to our city," Newcastle Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes said.

"The Multicultural Business Program has been designed to help highly capable people harness these skills to support their families in a foreign country where business practices, cultural customs, rules and regulations are all new to them.

"The program still needs more mentors to provide the participants with ongoing support, so I am appealing to business people in Newcastle and those with foreign language skills, particularly Arabic, to help us with this great initiative."

Business people interested in volunteering as mentors for the Multicultural Business Program should contact Jill Gaynor at Newcastle City Council on 4974 2222 or jgaynor@ncc.nsw.gov.au

"Many of the participants had successful careers before they left their countries, and the lessons they'll get in business planning, financial management and marketing will help them prosper here in Newcastle. Newcastle City Council's long-term vision is to become a thriving community where everyone is valued and able to contribute to our community..."

Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes

City of Newcastle, NSW

For More Information Visit:

<http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/Council/News/Latest-News/Class-in-for-multicultural-business-program> <http://www.nsservices.com.au/>

