



Settlement
Council
of Australia

AT A GLANCE



Target Participants

Newly arrived migrants and refugees



Aim

To collect and distribute food to share with newly arrived refugees and migrants who need it



Organisations Involved

City of Stirling, SecondBite, and Coles



Location

Western Australia

CASE STUDY

City of Stirling Collaboration with SecondBite

City of Stirling partners with SecondBite and Coles to collect and distribute food to share with newly arrived migrants and refugees who need it. Community-based volunteers are essential to supporting the success of this program.

Description

Newly arrived refugees and migrants are often faced with various challenges when settling into Australian society. This includes seeking employment, finding affordable housing, learning a new language, and accessing Government services that at times they may not be eligible for. Accessing fresh and healthy food can therefore be a challenge for some newly arrived refugees and migrants.

In response to this challenge in Mirrabooka, Western Australia, the City of Stirling has partnered with SecondBite and Coles to provide fresh food for those who need it. SecondBite is a not-for-profit organisation that is committed to rescuing and redistributing food for those who need it and redistributes it to charities and non-profit groups.

The City of Stirling has worked with SecondBite since January 2020. The redistribution of food takes place weekly at The City of Stirling's Welcome Hub, located at the Herb Graham Recreation Centre in Mirrabooka.



They have volunteers from different backgrounds and communities that join each Wednesday and Friday in the collection, boxing, and distribution of the food.

Through the help of SecondBite and our City of Stirling volunteers, they are able to support these groups by providing boxes of food for individuals and their families.

This program is a great initiative as it activates community goodwill by providing the opportunity for members of the wider community to not only get involved and volunteer in the settlement space but to also increase their understanding of the sector. The program is not only a rewarding experience for newly arrived refugees and migrants, but also for the City of Stirling volunteers who are involved in the program weekly. The feedback from both clients and volunteers has been positive and the City of Stirling hopes the program continues to be successful.

Key Learnings

This experience has generated three key learnings for the City of Stirling and SecondBite:

1. Volunteering provides an opportunity for the wider community to get involved in the settlement space.
2. COVID-19 creates further challenges for newly arrived refugees and migrants, making such initiatives highly crucial.
3. Both clients and volunteers are finding this program rewarding and a positive experience.

Challenges

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it can be challenging to deliver and distribute food to our clients, especially with restrictions and lockdowns.

More information

To find out more information about the program contact birkti.mesfin@stirling.wa.gov.au

If you are interested in volunteering find out more here: <https://www.stirling.wa.gov.au/your-city/careers/volunteering>.

