



## Settlement Council of Australia

### AT A GLANCE



#### Target Participants

Young people aged 12-25 from diverse backgrounds, services and local businesses



#### Aim

To develop and share an antiracism campaign and take messaging to broader community



#### Organisations Involved

STARTTS, Blue Sky Community Services, LALC, Headspace Coffs Harbour, Coffs Harbour City Council



#### Location

Coffs Harbour, NSW.



#### Funding

NSW Government through COMPACT Grant



### CASE STUDY

## All One Under the Sun

“All One Under the Sun” (AOUTS) evolved from a series of consultations with youth from refugee backgrounds about their experiences of racism in Coffs Harbour. The program aimed to develop an antiracism campaign using multi art form messaging designed by young people to spread the message that we are a stronger, more connected and inclusive community where we all feel safe and belong, when we come together to address this significant social justice issue.

#### About the program:

“All One Under the Sun” (AOUTS) evolved from a series of consultations with youth from refugee backgrounds about their experiences of racism in Coffs Harbour. A Consortium of local organisations was established to oversee the campaign: STARTTS: Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors (Lead agency), Blue Sky Community Services, LALC: Coffs Harbour and District Local Aboriginal Land Council, Coffs Harbour City Council and Headspace Coffs Harbour.

The aim of AOUTS is to develop a yearlong antiracism campaign using multi art form modalities to bring youth from all backgrounds together (First Nations, refugee backgrounds, migrant and Australian born non Indigenous) to collectively develop a song, film clip, a logo, Forum Theatre pieces and a public mural to make visible the messages that a diverse and connected community working together creates an inclusive and safe community.

The song was created by youth from diverse backgrounds and led by “Grow the Music” and contains 5 languages: Gumbaynggirr, Swahili, Kurmanji, Arabic and English. Wherever possible First Nations facilitators are engaged so all the youth have a deep understanding from a First Nations perspective and to dispel negative stereotyping. A Youth Action Collective (YAC) was established to be the engine room for the campaign, to provide a link to the schools and the broader community. The logo will be used to promote the campaign and provide a bridge for businesses to be involved and to be used for promotional merchandise. A film clip will showcase the song in various iconic Coffs Harbour places and a documentary will follow the campaign



from inception to finish. “Bathtime Productions” are producing the film clip and documentary. Western Sydney University’s “Challenging Racism Project” is also involved to provide training including Bystander Training. The Project Co-ordinator is employed by Blue Sky Community Services working closely and collaboratively with the STARTTS Project Manager. The campaign will be launched in March 2022.

The stand out features of the program include:

- involving young people from ALL backgrounds
- Employing, wherever possible, First Nations and CALD facilitators
- Having a broad Consortium to oversee the campaign
- involving young people and schools by having music workshops in the schools ahead of developing the Campaign to inspire the young people to get involved and to build relationships with the schools

### Challenges

The main challenges have been related to COVID restrictions, including: not being able to bring students from different schools together in one school; limits on number of people at indoor venues and having to access outdoor suitable venues; and not being able to bring 100’s of people together for the film clip and documentary.

### Outcomes

This is a yearlong campaign which started in April 2021. Since this time:

1. 150 young people participated in 12 music workshops at the 4 public high schools in Coffs Harbour
2. 60 young people attended an initial 2 days of “tasters”: music, art, performance, dance and Welcome by First Nations Leaders to learn about the Campaign and provide a soft entry into the Campaign.
3. A song collective of 25 young people from all backgrounds came together and created an original song in 5 languages: Gumbaynggirr, Swahili, Arabic, Kurmanji and English.
4. A Youth Action Collective (YAC) has been established. The YAC meets monthly and is in the process of developing a logo to use for branding including merchandise. The initial design process was led by a First Nations graphic designer.
5. The YAC started with a training day in the CH Botanic Gardens with 18 young people. The training session included a First Nations presentation of Gumbaynggirr history, a smoking ceremony and a talk on racism from a local First Nations perspective.



## Key Learnings

There are three key learnings for this project:

1. Building relationships with people from diverse backgrounds and organisations takes time but is essential including listening respectfully and creating safety.
2. A plan is needed but for people to WANT to be engaged the plan needs to be flexible, include fun activities and good food and may have to have a shifting timeframe.
3. Building positive relationships is ongoing: young people can react quickly to actual or perceived differences and the Leaders need to model problem solving and positive team work.

### More information

A video recording of the project story is available here:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bhOyID\\_SuD5O9\\_7VFfbrvcE9A5QKLILv/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bhOyID_SuD5O9_7VFfbrvcE9A5QKLILv/view?usp=sharing)

