



volunteer refugee tutoring & community support

President's Message: Ian Tanner

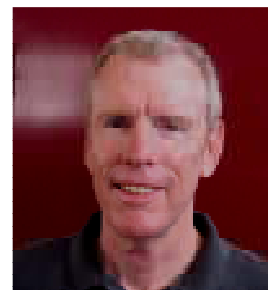
In this edition:

- President's message
- Meeting our new VoRTCS Admin Officer
- 2010 VoRTCS Committee
- Refresher Course for Tutors
- World Refugee Day
- How to Approach Graduation
- The Self-Sufficient Checklist
- Guide to Self Check List
- Checking in with VoRTCS
- Folk Dances from India
- Qld West Indies and Caribbean Comm Assoc (QWICCA)
- The St Vinnies CEO Sleepout
- Community Initiatives: Basket Tree
- IWSS Multilingual DV Resource
- Qld Multicultural Festival
- AMPARO Membership Drive
- UNHCR Refugee News

Hi Everyone,

As we reach the middle of the year, VoRTCS has settled into running with a new team – a new committee and different staffing at Vinnies. So what's happening?

- Firstly, there's a blueprint – our VoRTCS Strategic Plan. This year, we've crystallised our planning around the VoRTCS Tutoring Program – around activities like recruiting, teaching, matching, supporting, and reporting. Our aim is to continue to become more professional with our main program. Here are some examples from the plan. Over the next couple of years, you'll see we plan to shift some of our tutor recruiting into areas of need such as Logan and Ipswich. So that's why we've run an intake training course at Woodridge school this year in April.
- The training team has been grown also, and from July we'll be able to double the number of tutor intakes to occur monthly. So we'll be able to complement our new improved training, with recruiting greater numbers. We're also going to commence refresher training for existing tutors from July. We've just completed work with Centacare Consulting to make sure that the prototype of our new tutor mentoring system is well designed. By the end of the year we should have a trial under way. We're also keen to see how our tutors and families are progressing, so you'll see initiatives around reporting and feedback.
- You'll see that our focus at the moment is to improve, while a growing steadily in Brisbane, particularly in the areas where refugees live. Special thanks to all those tutors and ex-tutors who are working on these initiatives and helping make VoRTCS stronger and better.
- Last week was World Refugee Week and VoRTCS was again involved in the annual festival at Annerley. VoRTCS ran a series of sessions involving exercise, refereeing, and healthy eating in the lead up to the festival as part of the Eat Well Be Active program. The festival itself was a great day – lots of sport, music and good food. VoRTCS ran the Kids Space which was busy all day, and also an info tent which attracted lots of interest from potential new tutors. Thankyou again to all those volunteers who helped out this year
- There's lots of VoRTCS Training coming in the second half of 2010. Starting in July will be our first Tutor Refresher training course. We're finding that as we gain experience in working with refugee families and their tutors, tutoring practice is evolving and improving. This refresher training is aimed at bringing tutors who started before mid 2009 up to date on the latest tutoring practice, and also introducing you to the new Tutor Handbook. So our first refresher session will be open to 30 existing tutors and be followed by further sessions so that we cover everyone over a period of time.
- For those who are interested in joining VoRTCS as a tutor, we have our next intake starting on July 19. If you have friends or relatives who'd like to become a VoRTCS tutor, they can register in the Upcoming Events on the website. This is filling quickly, so there will be another intake about a month later.
- Further on, in August will be our next TAFE ESL course for tutors who have already started with their families – to be held on August 7 for 3 Saturdays – you can enrol by contacting Natasha on tutoring@refugeetutoring.org.
- Finally, some of our tutors have been asking about our VoRTCS Tutor Meetings. After running them every two months for the last two years, we've decided to review and consider alternatives. While many tutors like them, and would like to come more often, we were finding that less than 10% of our tutors were able to make it along. So we're looking at alternatives, including online options and large tutor gatherings, for tutors to meet and obtain good information. We'd welcome your thoughts on this – please email me on president@refugeetutoring.org if you have any suggestions.



Ian Tanner
VoRTCS President

Contact us

VoRTCS, c/-St Vincent de Paul, PO Box 3351, South Brisbane, 4101
Email: info@refugeetutoring.org • Web: www.refugeetutoring.org



Meeting our new VoRTCS Administration Officer

Natasha Rowley: I am one of the many New Zealanders who now calls Brisbane home, having moved here in 2007. I've been working for the St Vincent de Paul Society for nearly two years now, first as a member of the Helpline team and now temporarily with VoRTCS as their Admin Officer. I've spent several years living overseas and have a fascination with learning languages and learning to cook delicious dishes from the places I've been (I have a great recipe for sauerbraten is anyone's interested!). Before moving to Brisbane I was studying towards a Social Work degree which I am still continuing to do, working for St Vinnies has garnered my interest in one day working within the Migrants & Refugee field. I have been a VoRTCS tutor since 2008 and tutoring a refugee family from Sri Lanka since March 2009 and this has been the most rewarding experience as I got to know their culture and learn how to cook their lovely food as well as helping them to improve their English language.



I am the granddaughter of a refugee, a Polish Jew who after the Second World War was no longer welcome in his own country. My Grandfather spoke only basic English, had been uprooted during his education and due to his age had never had to work before. He had witnessed family members being killed in front of him and had the knowledge of what eventually happened to the rest. It was not easy for him but with the support of many people he managed to build a new life with the intentions of being able to provide his immediate family & future generations with a safe, peaceful home. His children were able to walk the streets without fear, eat good food, drink clean water and have the opportunity to receive an education. None of this would have been possible without people who were willing to volunteer their time to welcome people who were no longer able to call their own countries 'home'.

The 2010 VoRTCS Committee

Position	Name	Email Contact
President	Ian Tanner	president@refugeetutoring.org
Secretary	Tamlyn Mills	publications@refugeetutoring.org
Tutoring Program Leader	Linda Hedley	linda.hedley@bigpond.com
Learning & Development Leader	Marion Norton	learningdevelopment@refugeetutoring.org
Community Development Officer	Jeremy Wellard	jeremy.wellard@brisbane.qld.gov.au
Resources Officer	Rosemary Haworth	rosemaryhaworth@bigpond.com
Recruitment Officer	Chris Franklin	christopherfranklin@hotmail.com
IT Officer	Jayd Blunden	jayd.blunden@gmail.com
Website Officer	Chris Ryan	web_nerd@refugeetutoring.org
IT Support	Dave Leahy	david.j.leahy@gmail.com
Fundraising/Partnering Officer	Meta Finnimore	m.finnimore@connect.gut.edu.au
L&D Assistants	Caitlin Healy Sue Howard	caitlin.h@m3architecture.com sue.howard@deta.qld.gov.au
Newsletter	Aida Villatoro	aevil0@hotmail.com

- VoRTCS is a non-profit, volunteer run program that provides free in-home tutoring for refugee families in the Brisbane area.
- VoRTCS is a special works of St Vincent de Paul.
- Tutors assist refugee-families with primary, secondary and tertiary school work, literacy, conversation practice and life skills
- Please refer to the VoRTCS website for further information:

www.refugeetutoring.org

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Email: info@refugeetutoring.org • Web: www.refugeetutoring.org



Refresher Course for Tutors Who Completed Training Before September 2009

VoRTCS aims to assist and encourage refugee families to take up the opportunities available to all Australians, whether they be educational, social or vocational.

Volunteer tutors: If you did your tutor training before September 2009, it is time to get an update. We now have a Manual and some new ideas to help us get better outcomes from our service for our families. This will be a good time to share your successes and failures and make sure we are all on track.

The first refresher training course will be held on Thursday night 29th July and Thursday night 5th August from 7pm to 9.30pm. Sessions will be held at Vinnies HQ, 10 Merivale St, South Brisbane. Trainers are Marion Norton and Sandra Mills. This session will be capped at 30 participants.

Everyone should find the time to do this training in the next 12 months. If you can't attend this one, please nominate your preference for future sessions:

Night times	Tuesday	
	Wednesday	
	Thursday	
Saturday	Morning	
	Afternoon	
	All day	
Other		

Please direct any questions to: learningdevelopment@refugeetutoring.org or ring Marion Norton on 33115615 out of business hours.

World Refugee Day Celebrations 2010

UNHCR recognises World Refugee Day as a salute to the indomitable spirit and courage of the world's refugees.

In 2000, The United Nations General Assembly designated 20 June as World Refugee Day to recognise and celebrate the contribution of refugees throughout the world.

Since then, World Refugee Day has become an annual commemoration marked by a variety of events around the world, from stand up comics and rock concerts to conferences and memorial services.

On 27 June, Brisbane City Council in conjunction with Multicultural Development Association hosted a fantastic celebration of World Refugee Day at Annerley Soccer Club Fields.

The free community festival was a huge success and a feast for the senses with world music groups, food stalls and even camel rides for the young and brave!

VoRTCS remains a strong supporter of the World Refugee Day Community Festival and volunteers were out in force staffing an information stall and children's activity tent.

It was a great way to promote VoRTCS, with many families approaching the stall asking for assistance, and a sign-on sheet for new volunteers was full of new names by the end of the day.



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How to Approach Graduation

Qualities of a good tutor

- Resourceful
- Reliable
- Adaptable
- Empowering
- Team skills
- Language aware
- Motivator
- Culturally sensitive
- Prepared to care for others and for self

Is it time to retire your family from the VoRTCS program?

You and your tutor partners have been working with your family for 18 months to two years. Some of the family members have made excellent progress with their English and while they continue to look forward to your visits, they could easily function without you. Others in the family are not as advanced and perhaps would struggle on their own. But as a unit, the family has most basic skills covered.

Over the course of the tutoring relationship, you have tended to work more intensively with some members of the family and other family members have taken a more passive role. Perhaps, Mum pushes the children forward so they can complete their homework and Dad is often still at work when you visit.

If you can relate to this typical VoRTCS scenario, it might be time to think about retiring your family from the VoRTCS program. But how do you and your tutoring partners determine if your family is ready to “go it alone”?

1. The Self Sufficiency Check List

The first step is to audit your family’s progress against the VoRTCS list of self-sufficiency benchmarks.

Have a look at the table accompanying this article and remember, you don’t need everyone in the family to be able to reach the “expert” grade for every benchmark. As a unit, can they adequately manage most things on the list? Are they weak in a particular area?

2. Hold a Family Meeting

When you have audited the family’s progress, you will typically have a list of areas that need some attention before the family is ready to be graduated from the program.

It is a good idea to sit down with the whole family and set out a plan of attack and a time frame for the final weeks or months of tutoring. Typically, any unfinished business will involve those family members that have taken a passive role during the tutoring relationship. Ask the family for their feedback as to the areas of concern. If you weren’t turning up each week what will they have difficulty with and where else could they seek support?

It is also a good time to discuss with the family how far they have come since the time you first met them and reflect on the great progress they have made. Graduation is a time for celebration and you may wish to plan a party for your last session together.

3. Saying Goodbye

If you have done our job as tutors well you will have a friendly, trusting, working relationship with the family and will miss them when you don’t tutor them anymore. These feelings are completely normal but remember your relationship with the family is a professional one that was always going to end at some point. If you continue to allow them to rely on you for support, you may in fact be undermining their quest for self-sufficiency.

You may choose to keep in touch informally with the family, but as the family is no longer supported by VoRTCS you do this as a private individual without the support or protection of the VoRTCS program.

4. Contact the VoRTCS Office

When you have set a date for your last official tutoring session, let the VoRTCS office know and we will record the graduation in the database. Email info@refugeetutoring.org.au with the name and current address of your family, the names of the tutors in your team and the planned date of the last session.

Of course, we have many families on our waiting list that need your help urgently and we will be in touch with you and your tutor partners to encourage you to keep tutoring with VoRTCS. Remember, not only has your family made great progress, you are also a much more experienced tutor now and other newly arrived families can benefit from this. If you haven’t done so already, graduation of your family is a great time to complete the tutor refresher training program.

Keep up the great work!



Contact us

VoRTCS, c/-St Vincent de Paul, PO Box 3351, South Brisbane, 4101

Email: info@refugeetutoring.org • Web: www.refugeetutoring.org

Self-Check List: Settling in - - Am I Managing OK?

Life Skill Topic	Examples of Routine Tasks	CAN DO ✓	Skill not needed
EMERGENCY SERVICES – STAYING SAFE	Can give a basic account of an emergency event e.g. accident. (who, when, what, where).		
	Can make the call to police, ambulance, fire services to report incident (e.g. burglary, injury, home fire).		
	Can follow diagram for emergency e.g. resuscitation, fire exit.		
	Understands warnings and preparation for weather events.		
	Knows meaning of beach safety flags and importance of water safety.		
	Knows about issues of child safety including internet usage, stranger danger.		
TRANSPORT – GETTING AROUND	Can order a taxi using automatic voice prompts. Can tell taxi where to go and help with directions if known.		
	Can use Transinfo (internet or phone) to find transport in known area. Follows timetable, identifies stops, uses go card.		
	Can get to places across town for special events e.g. requiring change of bus/train.		
	Can get drivers licence. Knows rules for passengers, children, accidents, third party insurance, and tolls.		
	Can use a street directory to decide which way to go within a well known area.		
	Can understand a variety of parking signs, directions, and traffic warning updates.		
INCOME/ EMPLOYMENT	Understands tax file number, and can complete a basic tax return or knows how to get help.		
	Can understand a pay slip and question discrepancies with employer.		
	Knows the purpose of superannuation and the name of their fund.		
	Can contact employer/ Centrelink to give information e.g. re sickness, change in details.		
	Can follow supervisor's instructions and can explain a problem to the supervisor.		
PURCHASES GOODS AND MANAGE CONSUMER RIGHTS	Can ring store to ask if they have an item or find an item on line.		
	Can check docket and point out if it is incorrect.		
	Can pay for an item or a bill online or on the phone; can pay with a credit card pin or sign; can check they get the right change.		
	Can compare prices and amounts.		
	Can return a product that is the wrong size or broken.		
	Understands ways to reduce costs e.g. switching off appliances.		
ACCOMMODATION	Can complete new lease agreement and associated papers.		
	Can identify problems around the rental property and advise real estate agent of concerns.		
	Understands electricity, water, gas bills.		
FINANCIAL	Knows how to pay bills.		
	Can read bank statement to check receipts and expenditure.		
	Can use bank account, credit card/debit for management of finances.		
	Can use internet banking or convenient alternative.		
	Understands a simple budget. Can budget for large expense e.g. school camp.		
	Knows about common scams and taking care (e.g. at ATM).		
	Understands credit, loan, interest.		

If you are interested in volunteering with VoRTCS contact the VoRTCS team at:

tutoring@refugeetutoring.org

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Self-check list... continuation

Life Skill Topic	Examples of Routine Tasks	CAN DO ✓	Skill not needed
HEALTH	Knows how basic health system works including where to obtain public health services which can be more economical.		
	Can make medical appointments as necessary.		
	Knows where to buy healthy food and how to avoid too much sugar and fat. Can prepare healthy meals for the family. (e.g. school lunch).		
	Can give basic medical information about family members e.g. immunisation, previous illnesses.		
	Stores medicines safely.		
	Can apply for Medicare refund or identify bulkbilling surgeries.		
	Involves family in regular exercise/ sport.		
LEGAL SYSTEM	Understands laws and penalties across everyday issues relevant to circumstances e.g. parking, shoplifting, assault, internet use.		
	Understand requirement for children to attend school.		
VOTING / GOVERNMENT	Can understand options for voting and vote independently.		
	Understands key issues that affect them.		
	Understands local, state and federal levels of government and the requirement to vote.		
COMMUNITY SERVICES	Can use community services such as the library.		
	Can find a service they need and ask for help.		
	Can access an interpreter when they need to.		
SCHOOL SYSTEM	Attends parent teacher evening and understands to some extent.		
	Can talk to the teacher about child's progress or behaviour.		
	Can notify school about child's absence.		
	Can get involved in homework and tell teacher if it is too hard.		
	Understands letters from the school and completes forms.		
	Has basic understanding of child's report card and action needed.		
PERSONAL GROWTH	Develops their skills for employment.		
	Can confidently speak in social situations on subjects they know.		
	Can plan for their future and identify steps required.		
	Can use English skills to get information and for enjoyment e.g. reading newspaper, TV times, sports, magazines.		
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT	Joins in to local event e.g. school fete, community festival.		
	Is involved with school, church or other community group.		
	Can discuss and express opinion about current popular event e.g. TV show, current affairs, sporting event.		
	Understands relevant aspects of Australian culture.		

To submit an idea for the newsletter

contact the Publications Officer at:
publications@refugeetutoring.org

Contact us
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 Email: info@refugeetutoring.org • Web: www.refugeetutoring.org



Guide to Self-check List

Please use this list as a guide only. It is intended to help family members and tutors make an informed judgment about the time for families to exit the VoRTCS program. We believe these skills are important for the adults (decision makers) in the family to be able to do by themselves, although children may be able to assist with language elements. This list is NOT prescriptive – so families do not have to do it all!!.

The items are intended to be at the level of “routine”. That is, they are tasks that turn up in our everyday lives that people need to be able to manage – or know how to get help to manage – in order to keep their heads above water and progress in the settlement process. This is our VoRTCS goal – to help people develop their skills to a point where they are not at risk of falling behind or getting into a mess.

Some items, or even whole life skill topics, will not be relevant for a family member – or for the whole family. You may like to add items requiring the same level of language skill and knowledge. Each item requires a level of competence with English with a different level of emphasis on reading, writing, listening and speaking. These skills will develop at different times. In a family, one adult may be responsible for an area and reduce the need for others to be competent. However, it is still important for all adults to develop their language to a level of independence, while they have the opportunity to do so, so they don't get left behind.

Hence, it is not appropriate to add up the number of ticks to have a score out of 62. Maybe half will be enough – maybe not. You need to decide whether there are sufficient skills in hand for the family to cope adequately on a day-to-day basis – and to be able to use the support systems that are in place for everyone. The decision will be affected by motivation and interest. This check-list is not designed for children who mostly focus on achieving their grade level at school. If the parents have both reached an adequate level, but the children are still behind, it may be possible to find alternative tutoring support in the community, so our VoRTCS service can move to another family in need.

As this is a trial, we welcome your feedback and details of your experience with it. Please send your comments to the Learning Development Team: learning@refugeetutoring.org or contact Marion Norton on 33115615.

Checking in with VoRTCS

How is VoRTCS going? Does the program work? Check out our new Check-In process.

These are questions we are often asked – by tutors, referrers and those who fund the program. We can say: “It is going well. We have 400 tutors working with 150 families, and every now and then families finish up because they can manage without us. So it must be working”.

But we actually don't know what happens once tutors are matched up with families. We don't know how often tutors get together with families and, apart from occasional feedback, we don't know whether the weekly meetings help families to settle in to the community better than they would have without us.

Like everyone else, VoRTCS has to be accountable and responsive. We need to know what is working and what is not so that we can improve – and we need to be able to show others the value of our program.

This means we need reliable information about what we do. So we need to get regular information from you. Therefore we are starting up a Monthly Check-In Process. For the next few months we will trial it by email. Once we have worked out the best way to do it, we hope to make it online.

We have kept it very simple because we know you are busy. It will only take a few minutes. Information will come out to you soon so you can do the first Check-In on 31 July. Before we get started we need to check we have the right details of your family. We will send you an email with names of family members. Please respond quickly to help us get things going.

If you have any concerns about the Check-In, please contact Marion Norton on 33115615.

Contact us

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The VoRTCS Program aims to assist refugee families take up the opportunities that exist in Australian society.

VoRTCS volunteers believe that refugees have a lot to contribute to Australian society and should be assisted and encouraged to take up the opportunities available to all Australians, whether they be educational, social or vocational.

Folk Dances from India

Qld West Indies & Caribbean Comm. Assoc. (QWICCA)

DON'T forget to let us know if:

- You change your contact details
- You stop visiting your family (even temporarily)
- You need another tutor to assist your group
- You need more resources
- You need advice
- You are having problems tutoring
- Your family changes their contact details



Contemporary and Folk Dances from India

Indooroopilly High School,
5:45pm on 7 August.
Enquiries to
Namita Debroy 3272 6412
Nriya Bharati School of Kathak Dance

This association aims to bring together anyone interested in Caribbean culture to spread the culture and music of the Caribbean to the Queensland community.

- The Jahbutu Band is a professional band from the Caribbean Arts company, for more information visit: <http://www.caribbeanartscompany.com.au/> where you can also obtain a free download of 'That's Love' and enter a chance to win the CD.
- The Rivercity Steel Band is Brisbane's only community steel band, for more information visit: <http://www.rivercitysteel.webs.com/>. The band welcomes new members of all ages and abilities, if you are interested in joining please contact via the website or reply to this email.
- If you are involved in or know of any other Caribbean cultural events please let us know and we will include them. If you would like to be a part of QWICCA please also let us know - we are hoping to build up our membership and arrange both cultural and social events for our community.



The St Vincent de Paul CEO Sleep-out

Community and business leaders rise to the challenge of homelessness!

Following the success of last year's event in Sydney, the St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland hosted its first Vinnies CEO Sleepout on June 17 at the Suncorp Piazza, South Bank. The response from the business community was overwhelming with more than a third of a million dollars raised in Brisbane and \$2.8 million raised nationally.

The event, being held in each capital city in Australia, aimed to raise awareness about homelessness, as well as raise much needed funds to go towards the Society's range of support services for disadvantage people especially for those facing homelessness.

CEOs from 50 top business and community leaders across the State experienced first-hand what it's like to be homeless.

They were forced out from the safety of their corporate office buildings into conditions no more comfortable than somebody living on the streets of Brisbane – just a piece of cardboard to sleep on, a mug of soup and a few cups of coffee to sustain them through a long, cold winter night.

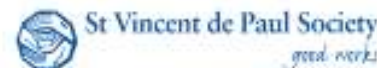
The impact on the way in which business and community leaders think about homelessness is difficult to measure, but from the comments of a small sample of the 650 CEOs who slept out around Australia, the event helped change many hearts and minds. The Society is keen to build on the success through the holding of the event again next year.

Ted Flack State Manager, Communications and Fundraising
St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland



Contact us

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Email: info@refugeetutoring.org • Web: www.refugeetutoring.org



Community Initiatives: Basket Tree



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OUTING WITH A DIFFERENCE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

WOULD YOU LIKE AN OUTING WITH 3-6 FRIENDS?

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TIMINGS AVAILABLE (Booking on both timings available for both days)

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Sat Morning 10am to 11.30pm

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PO Box 5519, West End 4101

Email: aandrews@onthenet.com.au

Websites: www.lastfirst.net or www.westendnetwork.com

Immigrant Women's Support Service Multilingual Domestic Violence Resource

The Immigrant Women's Support Service is proud to announce that we recently launched our new multilingual domestic violence resources. "The Multilingual Domestic Violence Resource includes information /diagrams on:

- What is Domestic Violence?
- Cycle of Violence
- Power and Control Wheel
- Equality Wheel

These information resources have been designed specifically for *workers* to use when engaging with women from non-English speaking backgrounds on the subject of domestic violence. *Please note: It is not our intention for the resources to be provided directly to community members*

These new resources were made possible through funding provided by the Department of Communities and generous permission to utilise and adapt existing resources from the Gold Coast Domestic Violence Prevention Centre and Multicultural Families Organisation. Languages available: Arabic, Bosnian, Chinese, Dari, English, Farsi, French, Hindi, Japanese, Jura Arabic (Sudanese), Russian, Spanish, Tagalo, Thai, Turkish, and Vietnamese.

Whilst the resources are free of charge, we have to charge \$10 for postage for one set of the resource. For larger orders please contact IWSS first to see if amount required is available and costs for postage. Alternative arrangements to pick up the resources may be arranged.

Please Post the Order Form and Postage Fee (by Money Order or Cheque) to:

Immigrant Women's Support Service

PO Box 5490

West End Qld 4101

Telephone: (07) 3846 3490

Fax: (07) 3844 8467 or E-mail: mail@iwss.org.au



Contact us

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Queensland Multicultural Festival

The Queensland Multicultural Festival will be held on 17 October 2010 at the Roma Street Parkland. The Festival is the ultimate showcase of Queensland's cultural diversity. The annual event has attracted over 280 000 people since 2004.

This festival pays tribute to a broad range of art forms embracing music, dance, literature, theatre, film, sport, photography, visual art and traditional and contemporary cultural activities from many nations.

The festival celebrates Queensland's cultural diversity via a family-friendly program that includes a citizenship ceremony, roving artists, children's activities, international food and beverages, and craft stalls.

**Calling all performers, artists, private food stallholders and community groups.
Expressions of interest are now open for the 2010 Queensland Multicultural Festival.**

Calling all Volunteers

Expressions of interest are now open for those people who want to gain backstage access and experience by volunteering at one of Queensland's biggest festivals. Please download the information and application forms and return to the volunteer coordinator (instructions on the application form).

[Volunteer information pack \(PDF 90kb\)](#)

For further information please contact Michelle Kennedy on (07) 322 45468 or email michelle.kennedy3@communities.qld.gov.au.

AMPARO Membership Drive

AMPARO Advocacy Inc. is a small non-profit community organisation which defends, protects and promotes the rights and interests of vulnerable people from a non-English speaking background who have a disability. They provide individual advocacy within the Brisbane Metropolitan area and undertake a small amount of systemic advocacy on issues that impact people across the State. The organisation is governed by a voluntary management committee, the majority of whom are people from a non-English speaking background who have a disability and we are funded by The Department of Communities, Disability Services.

The aim of the Membership Project is to grow and strengthen the membership base of AMPARO Advocacy by recruiting broader state-wide and local membership to assist in building AMPARO's capacity so that the organisation can grow and be sustainable over time.

AMPARO Advocacy believes that people from a non-English speaking background who have a disability have a rightful place in the community where they are respected and valued; are supported in culturally, sensitive and responsive ways; have authority to direct their own lives and are actively participating and contributing to the social, economical and political life of the broader Australian society.

People from a non-English speaking background who have a disability remain the core group of the membership along with family members. In order to continue their strong leadership and governance of the organisation into the future they recognise the need to strengthen their membership base and to embed the organisation in the broader community by encouraging others to become members.

AMPARO is searching for members who support their mission, values and beliefs and who will be interested in supporting the work of the organisation and keeping them connected to the life experiences of people from a non-English speaking background who have a disability.

If your organisation or members of your organisation are interested in finding out more about AMPARO Advocacy, or if you know of any other individuals who you believe may be interested in having contact with them, or if you require further information about this project, please contact them on 3369 2500 or via email info@amparo.org.au or search their website www.amparo.org.au.



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UNHCR reaches milestone in resettlement of Iraqi refugees

<http://www.unhcr.org/4c1b66d133.html>

News Stories, 18 June 2010 AL HASSAKEH, Syria, June 18 (UNHCR) – UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres announced on Friday that UNHCR has referred 100,000 Iraqi refugees for resettlement from Middle East countries since 2007.

While hailing the milestone, Guterres said more needed to be done. "A hundred thousand submissions of Iraqi refugees is a tremendous achievement. Many have been living in limbo for years. This will increasingly be the case if states don't continue to welcome Iraqi refugees for resettlement," said Guterres.

He also urged resettlement countries "to facilitate the speedy departure of refugees they have accepted for resettlement."

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Refugees from Myanmar arrive in Bucharest as Romania joins ranks of Resettlement Countries

<http://www.unhcr.org/4c0e76e29.html>

BUCHAREST, Romania, June 8 (UNHCR) – Romania has become one of the few countries in the world to accept refugees for resettlement, following the recent arrival in the European country of 38 people originating from Myanmar.

The refugees, including eight children, flew to Bucharest from Malaysia on May 31 and June 1 under legislation adopted by Romania in December 2008. This provides for Romania to accept up to 40 refugees for resettlement each year.

Machiel Salomons, UNHCR's representative in Romania, noting that the refugee agency had been forced to enhance its resettlement efforts, said "Romania's contribution in this regard is both timely and very much appreciated."

The group of 38 refugees, all ethnic Kachin, are currently staying at the Regional Centre for Accommodation and Asylum procedures in Galati, a city in Eastern Romania. The facility is run by the Romanian Immigration office (RIO). The resettlements was organised by the RIO in close cooperation with UNHCR and the Romanian Red Cross.



Volcanic Eruption in Iceland delays Resettlement Plans for Palestinians

<http://www.unhcr.org/4bd050ee9.html>

PARIS, France, April 22 (UNHCR) – A group of Palestinians accepted for resettlement in France after years in a desert camp will have to wait a bit longer to start a new life after their travel plans were disrupted by the huge cloud of volcanic ash drifting across Europe from Iceland over the past week.

The eruption of Eyjafjallajökull played havoc with air travel in Europe, with most countries closing their skies last week because of the spreading ash cloud. Airlines have begun resuming normal flights to Europe in the past two days.

The group of 43 Palestinian refugees, including 18 children, were due to fly on Tuesday from the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, to Paris' Charles de Gaulle Airport via Amman in Jordan. They have been living under harsh conditions in Al Waleed camp on Iraq's border with Syria after fleeing persecution and abuses in Iraq.



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