

"This is a new country for us and a new life. We bring hope and if we learn the language and we learn new skills - do whatever work we can in community work, aged care or cooking - we will help our families and be successful."

- Tereaza Audo



After School Hours Learning Support Program

The After School Hours Learning Support Program provides tutoring to newly arrived primary and secondary school students as they adapt to the different educational environment in their new schools.

Youth Support

We offer specialised youth work support for adolescents and young adults who may be dealing with difficult family relationships and inter-generational conflict or struggling with their education, training or employment. We also facilitate links into sporting and other recreational activities, encouraging skill development and partnerships with sporting clubs and youth forums.

Young Parents' Support

CatholicCare provides culturally sensitive case work support to young people who have become parents under 25 years of age. We provide information, skill development and links to universal early childhood and maternal services. We also help young mothers find pathways to stay connected to education and employment, and provide advice and support to extended families.

Contact Us

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Our Commitment

CatholicCare strives to maintain the dignity of each person and family in all their diversity. All cultures, religious beliefs and personal values are respected.



ABN 42 795 179 778

CatholicCare seeks to serve the community in all its diversity. See our website at www.ccam.org.au to learn more about our wide range of professionally delivered programs, services and locations in Melbourne, Geelong and surrounding areas.

© CatholicCare 2011. Photo of Sudanese family (front cover) by Peter Webb.
Photo of Burmese lady sewing (internal spread) by Lisa Maree Bonnici.
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Formerly Centacare Catholic Family Services

Refugee and Settlement Program

Empowering Refugee and Humanitarian Entrants



Strengthening families and communities

www.ccam.org.au



CatholicCare's Refugee and Settlement Program provides responsive settlement support services to recently arrived refugee and humanitarian entrants. Our aim is to empower individuals, families and communities to become confident in their new country, to build a sense of belonging and to integrate into our vibrant multi-cultural community.

We work in partnership with schools, health services, other community organisations, training providers, businesses and community members to provide complementary expertise and resources so we can deliver a broad range of services and supports to people settling in Australia.

Our culturally sensitive services include:

- **Casework** - Supporting individuals and families in addressing many issues facing refugee and humanitarian entrants including health and mental health, parenting, housing, education, job readiness, family violence, community connectedness and family reunions
- **Social Support Groups** - Ongoing life skill development through the traditional village-like women's and men's Social Support Groups – which also serve as a means of sharing stories, managing stress, reducing isolation and expanding support networks
- **Community Education** - Offering information, referrals and guidance on how to access existing services
- **Cross-cultural Forums** – Assisting mainstream agencies to work with culturally and linguistically diverse communities
- **Capacity Building** - Encouraging self determination and community leadership and facilitating opportunities for people to be involved in developing cultural networks and communities

Who Do We Assist?

CatholicCare currently offers a diverse range of services to people from African, Afghan, Karen and Chin (Burmese) Iraqi and Iranian communities. Our services are sensitive to the pre-migration experiences of all new entrants.

Services are available regardless of current residency status, cultural, ethnic or religious background. A coordinated approach to service delivery addresses common barriers to social inclusion and participation and encourages self sufficiency.

All our services are tailored to address the varying needs of women, men, children and young people amongst different communities.

Our Services

Social Support Groups

Social Support Groups provide participants with opportunities to develop life and vocational skills in areas such as:

- English language skills
- Emergency support services
- Tenancy
- Legal system
- Personal care
- Transport
- Medication
- Shopping
- Banking
- Money handling
- Cooking & healthy eating
- Gardening
- Computer skills
- Education
- Sewing
- DIY handyman skills

No Interest Loans

The No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS), combined with the Financial Literacy and Building Independence Project, helps refugee job seekers gain financial independence and address their employment barriers.

Job Readiness and Integration

We have partnerships with several training providers who can assist our service users to undertake vocational training in a number of areas including community services/welfare, children's services, aged care and child care. All these programs are delivered in conjunction with English language skill development and mentoring support.

Green Patch – Sowing the Seeds Gardening Project

By building on refugees' prior farming experience and developing financial management and English language skills, we work in partnership with Horticultural Skills Australia to deliver Certificate II in Horticulture and increase job readiness.

Computer Literacy

Through our partnerships with local ethnic community groups, local Councils, and educational institutions, we are training participants in basic computer and English literacy.