TVET response: How to overcome systemic barriers and economically empower refugees

Case study: Youth Transition Support Program, Australia

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About refugee young people in Australia

• **More than 1 in 4 (27.6%)** Australians were born overseas

• **5.1 per cent** of the migrant population have arrived on Humanitarian entrant visas

• Youth unemployment has **decreased to 7.0%** in 2022, but young people of refugee or vulnerable migrant background face additional barriers to training and employment that Australian born young people do not face.
Young people from non-English speaking backgrounds make up less than 1 in 10 of all young learners in Australian TVET.

Young people from non-English speaking backgrounds as a % of all young TVET learners:

- 2019: 10.8%
- 2020: 10.5%
- 2021: 8.9%
While participation of young people from non-English speaking backgrounds increased from 2015-2019, the rates of completion stagnated.
Our systemic change work in youth employment, education and opportunity

The Youth Opportunity and Youth Transitions teams within BSL work at the nexus of research, policy and practice to pursue systemic change for young people experiencing disadvantage, including those from refugee and migrant backgrounds.
Youth Transition Support Program

Conceptual approach

Capabilities
Underpinning theory - foregrounds necessity of structural and individual approaches to change.

Advantaged Thinking
Expresses the capabilities approach in practice.

Five Key Practice Areas
Operationalizes Advantaged Thinking across:
1. Place
2. People,
3. Opportunities
4. The Deal and
5. the Campaign

Harnessing Community Effort
A way of working with the community to deliver the opportunities, networks and resources identified in the Five Key Practice Areas.
Youth Transition Support Program
The journey of a young person through the program

Young people progress through all the phases with guidance from their Youth Development Coach.

**Phase 1: Initial Phase**
- Arabic Welfare
- Brotherhood of St Laurence
- Banksia Gardens Community Services
- Spectrum

**Phase 2: Skills & Capability Building Phase**
- BSL works with key providers on the co-design and leads delivery of the YTSP experiential learning program to provide participants with real world opportunities that will assist them in achieving their employment and education goals.
- Key providers refer young people interested in sporting activities to CMY. CMY will deliver weekly sporting activities and link participants to mainstream sporting clubs.
- Key providers engage with HCC Employee Engagement Officers when a participant has completed activities in Phase 3.

**Phase 3: Real World Opportunities Phase**
- Centre for Multicultural Youth
- Hume City Council

**Phase 4: Placement Support Phase**
- Employment outcome
- Education or training outcome

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Case Study – Lina

• Young woman from Afghanistan who arrived as a refugee in 2021 with her family
• Worked with her coach to identify goals and aspirations
• Provided an opportunity to complete work experience
• Supported to access vocational education
• Currently working and studying and accessing post placement support with her coach

"Being part of this program helped me build my confidence by meeting new people. I also learned that it is OK if you don't know something, or are new to a skill, because there is always someone to help you".
Case Study – Samar

• Young woman from Syria who arrived as a refugee in 2016 with her family
• Studied English and completed secondary school in Australia
• Unclear of pathways post secondary school
• Worked with her coach to identify goals and aspirations
• Provided an opportunity to complete work experience
• Supported to access vocational education
• Currently studying and accessing post placement support with her coach

"I know what I have achieved so far is great, I feel more confident now about my career goals and I look forward to my next chapter studying Diploma of Community Service".