

SCARF

NEWSLETTER



An update from the Committee for friends, volunteers & members

NEW OFFICE OPENS

SCARF now has its very own office space, located in the Piccadilly Centre at the top end of Crown St, right at the railway. Our address is Lower Level, Shop 36 (next to the Podiatrist).

With the growth of SCARF and the expansion of our services we decided to take a short term lease. We want to assess if being more accessible will have any real benefits for SCARF members, volunteers and our refugee community friends.

SCARF has received support towards our office space from a generous private benefactor.

Having a proper office is a very exciting development for us, we will be able to store tutoring resources for volunteers, help community members with CVs & office training, conduct small group basic computer training etc. Some tutors will also be available at specified times for consultation/coaching.

It will also present a more professional identity to the broader community.

The office will be open initially for a couple of days a week. We are hoping it will provide opportunities for some volunteers to have more "hands on" involvement with SCARF programs. If you would be interested to attend the office for a couple of hours per fortnight please email Sharyn, stating your preferred day/time. scarf1@optusnet.com.au

FUNDING

SCARF has been successful in submissions for several funding grants this financial year. Assisting a key phase of development for the organisation, we have received monies from the IMB Community Foundation (for Homework Help equipment costs & initial CONNECT development), the CDSE (Combined Clubs, for Homework Help catering), VSEG (for volunteer small equipment including office furniture and trolleys), SESIAHS (Area Health Service, for Sexual Health Week workshops for young people). Our thanks go to our grants officer, Sarah Chisholm, for her wonderful work in this area.

CONNECT

Sarah has also been working on the development of SCARF's major project for the coming years. The CONNECT program is designed to address particular barriers refugee communities experience when recently settling in Australia from countries experiencing significant trauma around civil war conflict, and significant displacement and disruption to education and employment. Barriers for newly arrived refugee settlers such as language, driving and IT support are already addressed by SCARF's existing home tutoring, homework help, driving assistance and IT support programs - all of which will link in with CONNECT.

In light of the current political debate, this shows the pivotal role SCARF can play in assisting our newest Australians become full participants in Australian society.

CONNECT will utilise a multi-faceted approach, supporting the Illawarra refugee community through identified barriers towards finding suitable employment. This will incorporate a CONNECT Project Coordinator developing relationships and working closely with a Job Skills Trainer, Local Illawarra Business Networks, existing Government Study/Trainee/Apprenticeship Schemes, Inter-Agency Services and the establishment of a business community Mentor Network (including cross cultural training). For those interested in being involved in this exciting new project, please contact Sarah Chisholm at scarf.sarah@bigpond.com

PISH PESH Sewing Circle

SCARF was recently approached to provide help with a new internet based children's clothing range called PISH PESH. We are currently conducting a weekly sewing circle, on a trial basis, to see if we can produce stock to the required standard. Five community members have been involved in the trial, doing piece work sewing. The bibs and other accessories will then be sold online. It is a fantastic opportunity for refugee women to have some social time together, and earn a small income.

Strategic Community Assistance to Refugee Families

New Office
Shop 36,
Piccadilly
Centre
Crown St,
WOLLONGONG

(02) 4285 2952

PO Box 312
Corrimal
NSW 2518

scarf1@optusnet.com.au

www.scarf1.org.au

