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Welcome to the Spring edition of the South Central Region Migrant Resource Centre/The New Hope Foundation's Newsletter.

AGED SERVICES

Peninsula Ethnic Services Committee (PESC) Party



The South Central Region Migrant Resource Centre's Mornington Office, with members from the Peninsula Ethnic Services Committee held a "party" with a difference in June 2006.

The 'party' provided a fun non-threatening way of getting local older residents from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds together with a range of aged, disability and mainstream service providers.

Service providers had stalls at the event to provide information about their services and to receive any feedback. They also joined in 'party games' aimed at putting their skills with using interpreters into practice and with the dancing and entertainment provided.

Seniors attending from local senior citizens clubs and planned activity groups also joined in the activities and gave demonstrations of

ways that health promotion activities could be more culturally inclusive.

The event also included the launch of a digital story produced by the Mornington Office giving an overview of the range of services funded by the Home and Community Care (HACC) program.

Feedback from the community has been that the event was a great success and enjoyed by all who attended.

MOORLEIGH Multicultural Community Centre Festival "Our Diversity Our Wealth"



On the 23rd of June the Moorleigh Senior Citizens Multicultural Festival took place. The festival was held for the second year and it again provided the opportunity for the users of the centre and the general public to experience the multicultural life of the centre. There was traditional food, dance, arts and craft exhibitions that made the day interesting and colourful.

A number of local welfare service providers participated in the day, offering a lot of valuable information about local programs and activities that contribute to the health and well being of the senior citizens that access the centre.

The success of the festival demonstrates the necessity for cultural expression and the unique way of bringing people and services together to enhance social cohesion and harmony.

We thank everyone that participated and supported the festival and we hope that next year's festival will continue the wonderful tradition it created.

See you all next year!

“Building Face Lift for the Computer Resource Lab”

The Computer Resource Lab at the Moorleigh Multicultural Senior Citizens Centre offers free public internet access and computer training to the users of the Centre. Currently there are plans to expand the opportunities it offers to the public.

The SCR MRC was successful in obtaining funding to upgrade and expand its operation so more people can acquire computer skills and experience the benefits of the internet. The funding came through the Public Internet Access Program (PIAP), a State Government initiative that ensures community-based free public internet access continues to be provided to disadvantaged Victorians.

For more information on this project contact the centre coordinator on 9576 4038.



Community Visitors Scheme Residential Care Rights Information Session

In late August, the Community Visitors Scheme held an information session for our volunteers. The session covered the topic of

“Residential Rights”. An advocate, Anne Weston from Residential Care Rights Inc. provided the session.

The session covered the obligations that Aged Care Facilities have in regard to each resident under The Aged Care Act (1997) and discussed the avenues for complaint if these obligations are neglected or not met.

The session provided volunteers with the opportunity to openly discuss their experiences of the Aged Care system and provided volunteers with a further resource to utilise in their role as Community Visitors.



RESIDENTIAL CARE RIGHTS INC.

Provides an advocacy service for any person in Victoria who:

- Lives in a Nursing Home (high care) or Hostel (low care)
- Is being assessed by an Aged Care Assessment Team prior to admission to residential care
- Has applied for or receives: a Carer Allowance or a Community Aged Care Package
- May have to move into a Nursing Home or Hostel if Community Care Services cannot support them in their own home

AGED CARE ADVOCACY

A free and confidential service promoting the rights of people receiving aged care services.

For more information contact:

Residential Care Rights (RCR)
Ph: 1800 133 312 or 9602 3066

SETTLEMENT SERVICES

The South Central Region Migrant Resource Centre & South Sudanese Women's Network have been working in partnership with the Nasir Community Development Agency to run parenting sessions for the South Sudanese community. The training was conducted by ParentZone (Frankston) and has been funded by the City of Monash and the Victorian Multicultural Commission.

Twenty four Sudanese parents attended the 13 week parenting program which commenced on Wednesday 19th April 2006, at the Springvale Community Centre. The group have explored topics such as the importance of parents working together as a team when raising children, discipline, communication, and adolescents.

A number of participants have been trained as co-facilitators who will go on to deliver this training to other members of their community. An award ceremony took place on the 19th of July.

Participants were presented with awards by Joy Banerji the Mayor for the City of Monash and George Lekakis the Chairperson for the Victoria Multicultural Commission.



EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Workforce Participation Partnerships (WPP) Program

State Government Funds New Program to Assist Skilled Migrants & Refugees Find Work

The MRC has commenced the **Skilled Employment Assistance Program** with

funding from the State Government Department for Victorian Communities under the Workforce Participation Partnerships (WPP) initiative.

This project aims to provide employment assistance to recently arrived migrants less than two years in Australia, especially skilled and professional migrants and their partners.

For more information please contact Warren Brewer on 9563 4407.

The New Hope Foundation (NHF) has also commenced the **Western Region African Employment Assistance Program** under the Workforce Participation Partnerships (WPP) initiative.

This project aims to provide employment assistance to: refugees and special humanitarian entrants (primarily from the Horn of Africa); skilled migrants; and Temporary Protection Visa Holders (TPV).

For more information please contact Hannan Amin on 9687 4500.

CROSS CULTURAL TRAINING SERVICES

The South Central Region Migrant Resource Centre provides Cross Cultural Training to service providers and various organisations. Recently, we have delivered training to diverse organisations and have tailored the training material to meet the specific needs of requesting agencies. The feedback we have received has been outstanding. Some of the organisations we have worked with recently include:

- The National Archives Office of Australia
- Parks Victoria
- The Public Records Office
- The Victorian Public Service Recruitment Program
- Department of Human Services HACC providers.

If you are interested in arranging Cross Cultural Training for your organisation, please contact us on Phone: 9510 5877 or go to the "Cross Cultural Training" section on our website: www.nhf.org.au



The New Hope Foundation Inc.
Helping us assist others

REFUGEE RESOURCE CENTRE

The New Hope Foundation organised a soccer tournament for the Chin and Karen Communities which was held at Bonds Reserve Altona, on the 19th August 2006. Four teams participated in this day long tournament. Two teams represented the Chin community (East and West) and two teams were drawn from the Karen Community in the West of Melbourne.

Three captivating and intensely competitive games were played with the Karen team from the West of Melbourne eventually running out victors of the tournament after defeating the Chin team from the West of Melbourne by two goals to nil.

The tournament attracted over three hundred spectators from both communities and was conducted in a cooperative and friendly spirit. Representatives from the Local police and the city of Hobson's Bay youth and multicultural services also lent their support on the day.

Overall a wonderful time was had by all. Leaders from both the Chin and Karen communities highlighted the need for the development of more recreational and sporting programs to engage their youth.

Homework Study Support Group

Every Tuesday & Thursday 4-6pm
1st Floor, 273 Barkly Street
Footscray

For details contact:
John on 9687 4500



THE NEW HOPE MATERIAL AID SERVICE

REQUIRES

THE THINGS YOU DON'T NEED ANY
MORE BUT ARE TOO GOOD TO THROW
AWAY

- FURNITURE
and
- WHITE GOODS

TO GIVE TO NEWLY ARRIVED REFUGEE
FAMILIES.

Contact John on 9687 4500 to arrange
pickup through our friendly truck service -
yes we collect your goods!!

South Central Region Migrant Resource Centre

Website: www.nhf.org.au

To email: South Central Region MRC: enquiry@southcentralmrc.org.au
New Hope Foundation: enquiry@nhf.org.au

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About the SCR MRC Newsletter

The MRC Newsletter is produced by the staff of the South Central Region Migrant Resource Centre and The New Hope Foundation.

If you wish to subscribe to the newsletter or contribute an article (usually 100-300 words in length) please email: enquiry@nhf.org.au

The contribution deadline for the next issue is: November 1st 2006