

SETSCoP Cross-Sector Partnerships Roundtable

Summary of meeting

Videoconference – 5 November 2020

Economic participation has become even more of a priority for settlement as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the Australian economy. On 5 November, SETSCoP held a Cross-Sector Partnerships Roundtable with SETSCoP Cross-Sector Partnerships sub-group members. The facilitated discussion focused on discussing barriers to employment, current partnerships and how SETSCoP can continue to support the sharing of good practice and employment outcomes moving forward.

Considerations

Participants highlighted some key considerations relating to cross-sector partnerships and employment. There was general consensus among participations that employment is a long-term process that requires holistic and tailored support and is dependent on client needs.

Some of the barriers for SETS clients to securing long term employment include:

- English language proficiency
- limited Australian work experience
- overseas qualifications not being recognised
- impact of torture and trauma
- transportation issues (particularly in regional areas)
- limited access to childcare
- racism and discrimination

Additionally, some participants acknowledged that the skill set and expertise required to help facilitate employment outcomes is distinctive from general social work and community skills. A few organisations shared of their social enterprise projects but acknowledged the challenge in competing in a marketplace with pre-existing businesses and businesspeople.

Value of partnerships

Participants agreed in the value of developing and maintaining cross-sector partnerships, particularly as COVID-19 has impacted the job market. Attendees shared that some of the key partnerships to help facilitate employment outcomes, which include employers, community organisations, universities, schools and TAFE. Providers also discussed the value in partnerships to address systemic barriers.

Some effective partnerships shared by participants include:

- volunteering or work experience opportunities through local business
- employment opportunities through community and community leaders
- partnerships with large-scale employers
- partnering with community leaders to support community-led business start-ups
- coaching and mentoring start-up businesses

Some ideas of how to strengthen partnerships include:

- being the conduit between clients and employers
- partnering with people who can coach and mentor start-up businesses
- providing support to educational institutions and employers through cultural awareness training

It was highlighted that successful partnerships and collaborations are based on trust, and take time and effort to develop and grow.

Continued support from SETSCoP

Attendees shared of the value they see in SETSCoP supporting their continued development of cross-sector partnerships through:

- sharing experiences of successful cross-sector partnerships and collaborations
- sharing of best-practice
- providing a collective voice for advocacy and support
- resource development that can be easily applied to day-to-day service delivery

Resources shared

[Skilled Migrants & Refugees Project Launch \(CatholicCare Toowoomba and Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce\)](#)

[Seven Steps to SUCCESS: Enabling Refugee Entrepreneurs to Flourish Report \(Centre for Policy Development\)](#)

[Engaging business in refugee employment \(The University of Sydney Business School\)](#)

[Refugee Talent](#)

[Talent Beyond Borders](#)

[Enterprise Facilitation: Ernesto Sirolli at TED x Gympie](#)

[What do refugees and humanitarian entrants contribute to Australia? \(Parliament of Australia\)](#)

[The Bread and Butter project](#)