

**SETS Community of Practice**  
**Communique: Afghan Support Subgroup Meeting**  
**Videoconference – 10 March 2022**

On 10 March 2022, SETSCoP facilitated the first meeting of the Afghan Support subgroup for 2022. The focus of this group is to discuss Best Practice strategies used and trends and issues identified through the delivery of support to Afghan SETS clients. Attendees comprise SETCoP members from around Australia with an interest in supports for Afghan refugees.

**Supports currently provided**

Some providers are training bi-lingual, bi-cultural workers to support Afghan clients through small group sessions, home visits and one-on-one support. Some providers have received and delivered donated laptops for clients and provided workshops on how to use them, including myGov and other website useful for the family. Other providers are working with young people to connect them into regular group activities, such a sports and leadership and working to identify gaps in service delivery.

The National Employment Mentoring program being delivered by HOST International is providing mentoring and information for clients aged 16+ on education pathways, accreditation of qualifications, small businesses and employment pathways. This is an opt in program and clients can register through the website.

**Identified Challenges**

A number of providers have received requests for housing support from recently arrived Afghan clients, along with requests for driving classes, sports groups, social groups, English classes, accreditation for qualifications and women's groups. In Melbourne, a number of clients have relocated away from the area with the largest Afghan population, due to experiences of domestic and family violence.

A key need of this group is access to devices, this is due to these clients arriving with minimal possessions, due to the rush to exit Afghanistan. Some providers have directed clients to providers to No Interest Loans (NILs), so that they can purchase a device. Others have worked with groups who have donated devices.

Some clients are relocating to remote suburbs, where housing is more affordable, however, this means they are far away from service providers and sometimes do not have good access to public transport.

Providers discussed the need to partner with other services and networks who are providing support to this target group, so that their needs are understood and service providers know where to refer clients for specific service needs. There is a need for a directory of services for this target group.

**Shared Resources**

HOST International Afghan Employment Coaching registration page:

<https://www.hostint.org/afghanemploymentcoaching>

Afghan-Australian Community and Settlement Support Grants Funded projects:

<https://www.aacassgrants.org.au/funded-programs/>