

**SETS Community of Practice
Communique: Afghan Support Subgroup Meeting
Videoconference – 25 July 2022**

On 25 July 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.

Afghan-Australian Community and Settlement Support (AACASS) Grants Round 2

The Social Policy Group grants team shared information on grantees of the second round AACASS grantees (see link to further details in Shared Resources below) including:

In Australian Capital Territory funded projects include: an outreach hub for Afghan women and an informative bilingual picture book.

In New South Wales projects funded include: a range of short training courses, swimming lessons, driving, youth leadership camps, English groups, an Afghan women's textile group and exhibition, mental well-being supports, sports groups and financial literacy.

In Queensland projects funded include: a women's outreach program in Brisbane, driving support, English support and links with education and employment supports in Brisbane and Logan, a student led program at Mabel Park State High School and a social support and community program in Logan.

In South Australia funded projects include: a cricket program, driving supports, swimming support, English classes and referrals to other support services.

In Tasmania the funded project is a community project to deliver social and leadership outcomes.

In Victoria funded projects include: driving training, a women empowerment group, sports programs, including soccer and volleyball, leadership training, camps, a music training centre, a youth specific project, a senior specific project and a mothers group.

In addition, a media group is funded to produce video clips on women's health and domestic and family violence information to be shared online.

Supports currently provided by SETS services

In Melbourne, SETS providers are delivering support for Afghan arrivals in driving, digital literacy, relationships information and financial literacy.

In New South Wales there is a link between some SETS providers and AACASS grantees who are delivering Families in Cultural Transportation programs at funded grantee services. This program

explains Australian society and the impact of moving on family dynamics and relationships within families.

In Queensland, there have been few new arrivals transition from HSP to SETS, but this will occur towards the end of the year.

Identified Challenges

In many areas there are less Afghans enrolling their children in kindergarten, therefore when these children start school, they struggle to adjust socially, as they are not used to the learning environment. Some clients have shared with providers that they are concerned that their children will lose their first language if they attend kindergarten. Another barrier to children attending kindergarten is transport. STARTTS has developed a series of videos to be released soon with information on child development and use of play in various languages, so that parents can access this information. Links will be shared when available.

Some service providers are supporting clients with complex family violence issues. In order to provide culturally appropriate support, bicultural staff are trained. In Victoria this training is being delivered by InTouch.

Shared Resources

All AACASS funded projects information can be found at:

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

Huma Media WhatsApp group for clients to subscribe to:

<https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fchat.whatsapp.com%2Ffgw4VPI2PFE5dSMYg6Z43x&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cebc2895e8a984308994708da64ad051e%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637932991553087114%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikl1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdta=%2BoqQn6Ms1AEuELZduf0TuHWGrLPTKukk8fcbIcr5Zg%3D&reserved=0>