

Meeting Summary Communiqué

Discussion points

- The Jobs Victoria Employment Services (JVES) program ended June 2023, which concluded what SETS providers found to be a successful program for clients
- Discussions and updates on social enterprises and employment initiatives – both partnerships and SETS provider-initiated programs.
- South American cohort with high education, low levels of English, really wanting employment but facing barriers including entry-level jobs (which do not need the higher English proficiency) requiring own car and driver's licence. This has necessitated further volunteer-led driving programs to get people supervised driving hours – though like many driving programs, there are long wait lists.
- Discussion around working with local employers while also supporting clients who have faced the big jump from unemployment to work
- SETS client searching for work sooner after arrival, in comparison to prior years when there may have been more of a focus on AMEP and English classes, likely compelled by very high cost of housing and cost of living
- Discussion on information and supports regarding ABNs, self-employment and business ownership for SETS clients. Tax resources for people with ABNs can sometimes be challenging to access – some SETS providers have found success by partnering with ABN tax specialists to provide information sessions to SETS clients.
- There are interpreter shortages for certain languages, including Spanish.
 - A SETS provider gave an overview of their efforts to help SETS clients become accredited interpreters, through writing to the relevant state government authorities

Outcome(s)

- *Superannuation*
 - Secretariat and subgroup to update “Pre-Work Checklist for SETS Clients” with information regarding super
 - Standalone resource (1-pager) on how to talk about super with SETS clients – the essentials, in super language, with potential for translations
- *Social Enterprises* – Secretariat and subgroup to organise a SETSCoP Event (Workshop) regarding Social Enterprises for the settlement space.

Next meeting: To be scheduled for February – March 2024.

Attendees (19 SETS staff, 16 SETS providers):

Nick Ross (SETSCoP Secretariat)

Maria Rosales (SETSCoP Secretariat)

Sandra (Chaldean NSW)

Ahmad (Arabic Welfare VIC)

Ilka (CMY VIC)

Skye (North Coast Settlement Services NSW)

Lian (MIC East VIC)

Kholud (two additional staff) (AMWCHR)

Carmen (Assyrian NSW)

Sawm (MIC East VIC)

Carla (Multicultural Australia QLD)

Zac (one additional staff) (SSI QLD)

Hiyah (WCC VIC)

Jacqui (MercyCare WA)

Maggie (Bundaberg QLD)

Diana (Albury-Wodonga VRB NSW/VIC)

Bryan (ARA SA)

Ruth (Multicultural Australia QLD)

Vincent (CCSSCI VIC)

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