

NAP Community Projects Funding Program – 2008

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Organisation: Canberra Police and Citizens Youth Clubs Inc

Project Name: Community Art Program

Location: Canberra

Amount: \$25 000

Project Summary:

The Canberra Police and Citizens Youth Club (PCYC) currently focuses on engaging the community through sport. While this has been successful, it does not provide recreational opportunities for those who are not interested in sports. The Community Art Program aims to fill this gap while providing an opportunity for Muslim women to connect with the wider community through 32 weekly craft sessions. The classes will include discussion of topics such as inclusion, harmony, cohesion and participation. The program will be marketed to Muslim communities and open to all women, to encourage engagement between the Muslim and broader communities.

The project will help Muslim women, non-Muslim women and police mix in a safe and secure environment, while allowing all participants to explore the benefits of the PCYC. An opportunity to network with women from a variety of backgrounds, including female police officers and community support workers, will be valuable to emerging community leaders. The social networking skills that participants develop will build their confidence to become active members of the community.

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NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: Al Zahra Muslim Women's Association Inc

Project Name: Women Speaking to Women

Location: Arncliffe

Amount: \$28 500

Project Summary:

This project seeks to train 15 Muslim women as public speakers. These women will link up initially with the Smith Family VIEW Clubs of Australia as an opportunity to increase the awareness of the issues faced by Muslim women on a daily basis among the wider mainstream community, especially women who have had no contact with Muslim women in the Sydney region. The project will establish a partnership with the National Breast Cancer Foundation in order to provide speaker training and to assist in establishing a speakers bureau. It is expected the project will provide volunteering and employment pathways and increase the opportunities for Muslim women to become involved in community activities.

Organisation: Beyond Empathy Ltd

Project Name: Across My Bridge

Location: Armidale

Amount: \$30 000

Project Summary:

Across My Bridge is an arts intervention project aimed at building and strengthening relationships between young people from Muslim backgrounds, support agencies and the wider community, principally in the Auburn local government area. The project will focus on deepening the engagement with female and male at risk young people. Using visual art, sculpture, music, hip hop, dance, performance, film making and other digital media, the project will address cultural isolation by re-engaging young Muslims in a positive and meaningful way in a supportive environment. The arts activities will be delivered through 15-20 workshops of up to 15 young people guided by Beyond Empathy mentor artists and local artists. The range of experiences and opportunities proposed will develop self esteem, build relationships with wider community and will act as a catalyst for their positive re engagement in their community.

Organisation: Blacktown Migrant Resource Centre Inc

Project Name: Youth Empowerment through Sports (YES) Program

Location: Blacktown

Amount: \$29 900

Project Summary:

The key aim of the project will be to engage young people from Muslim communities to link them to mainstream services including youth organisations, police and Blacktown PCYC through the development of sporting activities. These activities will be delivered in a culturally sensitive manner with a particular focus on engaging young Afghan women. The project will also run empowerment, resilience and leadership training within soccer programs and provide a bridge to participation into mainstream sporting clubs and competitions for newly-arrived Muslim young people.

Key NAP objectives will be delivered by providing training opportunities (such as coaching, umpiring and first aid training) to Muslim women in particular, so they can actively and confidently participate in mainstream sporting activities. Through the sport activities, participants will be provided with mentoring and develop leadership skills, while engaging with members of the broader community.

Organisation: Forum on Australia's Islamic Relations Inc
Project Name: Helping Hand – Youth Volunteering Project
Location: Strawberry Hills
Amount: \$30 000

Project Summary:

This project will encourage more active participation in mainstream social and community based activities to lessen feelings of isolation and marginalisation in some communities. The project will promote volunteering among Muslim youth and will include a National Service Providers Symposium. The one day symposium will introduce dozens of volunteer organisations to young Muslims, raise awareness of the functions of the organisations and the range of volunteering activities available. The symposium will be preceded by presentations in five high schools to raise awareness of the importance of volunteering among Muslim and other youth. Four volunteering field trips will be organised for selected young people from the schools to visit a service provider or community organisation and experience the work they undertake. A mentoring program with the Centre for Volunteering will be undertaken by 10 young Muslims and they will be placed with mainstream organisations as volunteers. A volunteering newsletter will also be produced.

Organisation: University of New South Wales
Project Name: Football in the Park
Location: Randwick
Amount: \$30 000

Project Summary:

The Football in the Park program aims to improve social cohesion for humanitarian refugees, including Muslim youth, in Liverpool in Sydney's south west. This will be achieved by delivering weekly football activities, leadership training and volunteer opportunities. The goals are to improve the confidence and capabilities of the participants to engage with mainstream community football, empower youth to take responsibility for coaching and refereeing the programs and, engage local community to assist with the week to week administration of the activities.

This project will be run in partnership with Miller and Lurnea Intensive English Centres. It will provide weekly coaching sessions after school for 35 high school aged refugees and immigrants, approximately 50 per cent of whom are from Muslim backgrounds. Male and female youth will be identified to attend four leadership training sessions that will lead to their involvement as volunteer coaches and youth leaders within the program. Corporate and university volunteers will also be involved as coaches, mentors, administrators and drivers, exposing the young people to a range of community members. Participants in the program will be assisted to join local football clubs as registered players. Reward experiences, such as attendance at A League games and holiday camps, will also be used to foster self esteem and motivation.

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QUEENSLAND

Organisation: International Day of Peace Alliance

Project Name: Youth Peace Parliament

Location: Newmarket

Amount: \$27 000

Project Summary:

The Youth Peace Parliament is held in Brisbane as part of the United Nations' International Day of Peace (21 September). It strives to educate young Queenslanders about Westminster-style democracy, focusing on peace-oriented topics. Successful events have been held previously, and in 2009 the aim is to extend the program by focusing more on young people from the Muslim and marginalised communities. The project is completely independent of political or religious doctrines. The applicants believe it is one of only two youth parliaments in the world which specifically focuses on the International Day of Peace.

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Organisation: Islamic College of South Australia

Project Name: Youth Leadership Program

Location: West Croydon

Amount: \$30 000

Project Summary:

The project will build team work and leadership skills and aims to promote interfaith and intercultural dialogue between mainstream and minority communities. The project will build on growing relationships between the Islamic College of South Australia, Nazareth Catholic College and Adelaide Secondary School of English.

Activities planned will involve students in years 9, 10 and 11. They include: two team building exercises on a 'Tall Ship' involving 200 students from the three schools working together; 80 students working together in the industrial kitchen at Nazareth Catholic college, cooking food that is not from their own cultures and sharing it with parents and other students; shared religious studies classes involving students from Islamic College and Nazareth College; and shared participation in the Eid Fair, an annual event at the Islamic College. A summary of activities, to encourage others to build similar relationships between schools, will also be placed on the Islamic College website.

Organisation: Multicultural Youth South Australia Inc

Project Name: Step-In-Out: Multicultural Young Men's Leadership

Location: Adelaide

Amount: \$30 000

Project Summary:

The program aims to provide leadership and development opportunities for approximately 60 young men aged 14-25 years from diverse cultural backgrounds with a particular focus on Muslim communities. The project will use workshops, activities, individualised support and role modelling to: build resilience and leadership skills in participants; develop future pathways and goals to increase participation in the mainstream community; develop support networks, cross cultural relationships and acceptance between ethnicities; and increase community awareness and understanding of multicultural youth issues. Activities will include: 12 leadership workshops; at least three external adventure activities focussed on team building and trust; one youth event for 100 people, planned and delivered by a group of the participants; individual support for 60 young men; and at least four leadership opportunities such as public speaking or media engagement.

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TASMANIA

Organisation: Anglicare Tasmania Inc
Project Name: My Dress, My Image, My Choice
Location: Hobart
Amount: \$30 000

Project Summary:

This project seeks to bring together Muslim and non Muslim women. The project will hold an event in Hobart and in Launceston as an opportunity for women of all faiths and backgrounds to learn about Islam and Islamic dress, meet each other, talk and eat together in an informal setting. It will encourage Muslim women to participate and integrate into the wider community by presenting positive role models. The project will also provide an opportunity for Muslim women to participate in a skills development workshop. Separate workshops will be held at three high schools for students to learn about Islamic culture and discuss issues such as stereotyping, discrimination and empathy.

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VICTORIA

Organisation: Australian Multicultural Foundation

Project Name: Bridging the Gap

Location: Carlton South

Amount: \$29 700

Project Summary:

The aim of this project is to re-establish the confidence between older Muslim men or community leaders and younger Muslim men from new and emerging communities, so that the younger men are empowered to become representatives on behalf the community. The project addresses the breakdown of relationships and marginalisation of young people. Separate focus groups with younger men and the elders will be held in three locations: Shepparton, Dandenong and Moonee Valley/Flemington. The focus groups will involve 10 men in each location and will examine issues that have created intergenerational barriers. The outcomes of the focus groups will be discussed at a one day forum bringing all the men together, to be held in Shepparton. The forum will also be used to come up with further activities or projects for the young men to implement with the aid of their elder mentors. A record of the project will be posted on the organisation's website.

Organisation: Brunswick Neighbourhood House Cooperative Limited

Project Name: Empowering Women to "Mix"

Location: Brunswick

Amount: \$30 000

Project Summary:

This project aims to bring together women from Muslim and non-Muslim backgrounds through music and dance. It will provide DJ'ing skills, event management and leadership skills to a group of young women, aged fifteen to twenty-five. The project will cover a wide range of music and dance styles. Friends and relatives will be invited to share music and dances throughout the project.

The project aims to overcome the social isolation experienced by Muslim women by connecting them with the broader community. The project will run a series of workshops, covering team building, communications skills, conflict resolution, and public speaking, which will equip participants with leadership and representational skills and increase their confidence to engage in the public arena.

Organisation: East African Women's Foundation Inc
Project Name: Connecting Communities through African Muslim Art
Location: Footscray
Amount: \$30 000

Project Summary:

The project aims to provide African Muslim youth with the opportunity to gain life long skills, become involved and to create positive relationships with Victoria Police and the non-Muslim community.

The project addresses the issue of disengagement and antisocial behaviour displayed by some African Muslim youth. It will provide African Muslim and other young women and men with a series of activities and workshops to develop skills and creativity, culminating in a display of the final products as part of the Braybrook Big Day Out. Skills workshops will include media relations, communication and public speaking, leadership, planning, teamwork and cooperation. In addition the young women will have workshops in traditional scarf making and design. As part of the project, a community event will be held including performance, community discussion and a presentation by the youth about what they have learned. The participants will engage with the broader community through these public presentations and working with a range of community groups and other young people. The project includes a mentoring component and encourages engagement with the police to help build better relations.

Organisation: Islamic Society of Victoria Inc
Project Name: Building Bridges
Location: Preston
Amount: \$30 000

Project Summary:

The project aims to break down cultural barriers between Muslims from different cultures as well as between Muslims and non-Muslims, and explore issues such as tribalism and family disputes particularly affecting newly arrived communities. The program aims to develop in Muslim youth the skills required to integrate into the broader community and includes leadership development, sports activities within the broader community and other events. The focus is to inspire and motivate young Muslims through contact with role models, key institutions and participating in a variety of sports. The project will involve approximately 35 young men from six schools attending a series of workshops over a six week period. Each workshop will include recreational activities and be addressed by at least one guest speaker, including Muslim sports people and members of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade and Australian Federal Police. The young men will then work in four teams to organise and stage four events or activities.

Organisation: Victorian Arabic Social Services Inc

Project Name: VASS-Hume Brave

Location: Broadmeadows

Amount: \$30 000

Project Summary:

This project aims to engage marginalised young Muslim men from Arabic speaking backgrounds who are at risk of engaging in extreme and violent activities in response to their experiences of exclusion. It will connect them with religious leaders and expose them to the diversity of Islam so that they are less likely to adopt a narrow interpretation of Islam. The project will also address the need to strengthen relations between these young people, local police, religious and community leaders and other members of the wider community.

These issues and project aims will be met by providing a range of volunteering, mentoring, capacity building and peer mentoring activities. At least 50 young men will attend a series of capacity building workshops before being entitled to a free gym session. At the gym session they will be joined by community representatives, religious leaders, local council staff and police. The gym sessions will be a chance to network, and to be offered volunteering and other opportunities. A majority of the project's steering committee will involve young project participants. The participants will also be expected to promote the project through public speaking and media activities, including the production of a video clip by one participant who will be selected to undertake a film making course.

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Organisation: Gowrie Community Services (WA) Inc

Project Name: ArtLink

Location: Cloverdale

Amount: \$29 617

Project Summary:

Many Muslim youth have little contact with non Muslim youth, have minimal understanding of Australian culture and fear being harassed by mainstream youth. Similarly, many non Muslim youth have little contact with Muslim youth, have minimal knowledge and understanding of the Islamic faith and can be fearful of their Muslim peers. This project aims to bring together a group of 10 Muslim and 10 non Muslim youths to explore issues relating to culture, faith and social harmony through the medium of art. The two groups will attend separate cultural enrichment workshops, followed by a program of 16 combined art sessions with both groups working collaboratively to produce two pieces of art reflecting cultural sharing. The two art pieces will be unveiled at a community showcase event, and will be presented to the Australian Islamic College and the City of Belmont as lasting symbols of social cohesion.