



Australian Government

Department of Immigration and Citizenship

## Are you looking for a rewarding experience? Extracts from volunteer testimonials

'I started out as a volunteer tutor, as I wanted to help and welcome refugees to Tasmania. I was sick and tired of hearing about racial abuse that they had been suffering.

I saw the article in the Mercury about the IHSS program last year and decided to apply. I have been doing it for a year and find that it is very rewarding to see the appreciation of the refugees'.

**Clive, over 55, 2008**

'I find it challenging and sometimes emotionally draining but there is always something small that makes it rewarding and enjoyable and for example a smile when they accomplish a new essential task, a small child warming to you and hearing their first English word which is your name, the first phone call for no particular reason other than to say hello, the very early stages of communication in English and so on. I love that it also stimulates me to want to learn more about the culture and customs of the respective country that they have left'.

**Jan, over 55, 2008**

'I became a volunteer because of the good job they do in supporting people who face various difficulties. When I got to this country, I was in the same situation as many IHSS clients with no English and I was foreign to the culture. Volunteers helped me to overcome all these problems. It's good to give back something to the society. I enjoy supporting those in needs if I can'.

**Aubert, Age group 36 – 50 2008**

'I became an IHSS volunteer in January 2008 when I did the training course with my grandmother and mother who are also registered volunteers. The reason I became a volunteer for IHSS is because I love helping people. I just love it; it makes me feel really good on the inside to know I'm making a difference to somebody else's life.

Since I was younger, I've dreamt of working in Africa and India as a World Vision Youth Ambassador when I'm older, and I think volunteering through IHSS is basically exactly the same thing, except right here at home! One of the other reasons I became a volunteer is because something I really love is language and culture. I love to learn to speak different languages; it is something that really interests me. And this is a great opportunity to learn about many different cultures, which I can definitely say I have done!

I enjoy every single part of being an IHSS volunteer. I love everything from setting up the house before the families arrive, to helping them settle in and learning about their cultures. It's great to watch families grow and develop and become part of the Tasmanian community. I sometimes forget how lucky I am to live in a democratic country where we all have such freedom and opportunities. Learning about where some of these families have come from really helps me realise how lucky I am. I especially enjoy working with younger children and helping them settle into their new home. I believe that everyone in the world can make a difference and until I am old enough to travel and volunteer in other countries, I will do my best to make a difference here at home. And, in a few words, that's what I enjoy about volunteering with IHSS'.

**Sarah aged 13, 2008**