



Supporting Communities,
Strengthening Voices

East Web

PROJECT FACTS

The classroom experience can be very stressful and traumatic for students, both socially and academically. It can also be incredibly rewarding and fulfilling when students feel confident and respected by both their peers and teachers. And there is no question that the experience in the classroom plays a key part in young adults' decisions about whether to finish high school and whether to go on to further study. There is a strong evidence base that further education is directly related to increased employment opportunities. When students feel that they "fail" in the classroom, the confidence to take on further educational challenges is affected. And conversely, when students feel supported and successful in class, their self-confidence to engage with education is elevated.

School is challenging for all students but many students face particular challenges in the classroom for a plethora of reasons. Refugee students enter the schooling system facing many challenges, not only in having suffered trauma in their home country and then in their dislocation and journey to Australia, but in having to participate in the classroom in a new language.

For these reasons, support in transforming what has the potential to be a further stressful and traumatic experience into an empowering and rewarding experience is crucial. Home work programs can not only offer assistance with homework, language and literacy, but through this they can foster the confidence to engage and participate in the classroom.

New Hope Foundation Homework Club

The New Hope Foundation is central in coordinating the Homework Club which is a Homework and Mentor group for refugee children in a safe learning environment, matching refugee children with community volunteers who will provide a positive role in mentoring and assisting the participants with homework. NHF consulted with many refugee community groups, and discovered a gap in the provision of supported learning opportunities for refugee students.

The project will involve the participation of Gilmore College who are eager to provide their library and other resources to the project and will run for two hours twice a week after school. It is hoped that the project will expand to include more schools in the area in time and that transport will be organised to facilitate the participation of many newly arrived refugee students. Through bringing together different parts of the community, the project fosters understanding, a sense of belonging and a dialogue between refugee students and the wider community.

The school years are critical in shaping students' future development. This means that education is vital to address the root causes of ongoing disadvantage in refugee communities. Initiatives such as homework clubs work towards building a healthy future for refugee communities.

The EastWeb Fund

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