

## PROJECT FACTS

One of the newest and fastest growing communities in Victoria, and throughout Australia, is the Sudanese community. 1560 Sudanese have arrived in Victoria since 1996, comprising 81% of the Sudanese community, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The latest Census in 2001 recorded 4,910 Sudan-born persons in Australia, an increase of 105 per cent from the 1996 Census.

For any emerging community, there are many challenges and issues to address, from the practical and financial to the social and cultural. The Sudanese community is one that is collectively rebuilding family and community in a new home after fleeing extreme persecution in Sudan, at the same time as dealing with the traumatic experiences they left behind.

### **Association of Sudanese Women in the North**

The Association of Sudanese Women is a collective of recently arrived women from Sudan who have come together to offer support and to be supported in their resettlement in the northern suburbs of Melbourne. The women plan to work together to empower their community and to create the means to live proudly and independently. The group plays a vital role in addressing and relieving the suffering caused as a result of the trauma of the women's experiences in Sudan.

EastWeb has provided a start-up grant and in-kind support in order to support the group with the establishment costs of two distinct projects;

1. A sewing group aimed at providing meaningful employment and skills development alongside a positive and supportive forum for the women to come together and work through issues surrounding the refugee experience and resettlement.
2. A dance troupe developed to provide a means by which the group can maintain their culture and traditions and share them with the wider Melbourne community.

**The EastWeb Fund**

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