



## **Description of Pilot 2007-08**

The Ucan2 project recognises the need to provide additional support for young people (16 – 24 years) who are newly arrived to Australia and from a refugee background, as they make their pathway through the post compulsory school, training and tertiary sectors.

The avenues to achieve this include the provision of educational case management and contextual learning to encourage newly arrived young people to remain engaged in education and training whilst following an appropriate pathway to reach their goals.

Young people within the project are provided with educational case management, a curriculum, social support and mentoring, in partnership with their English Language provider. Education, training and employment opportunities are increased by engaging local networks, businesses, sporting clubs and the arts in the program.

The main objectives of the Ucan2 program are:

- to increase education, training and employment opportunities for young refugees in the first 15 months of the resettlement, recovery and integration processes.
- to increase the level of cooperation between providers of education, social support, training and employment services working with young people from refugee backgrounds in the 16 to 24 year age group.

Ucan2 is supported by an Advisory Group which includes representatives from Foundation House - the Victorian Foundation Survivors of Torture (VFST), the Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues (CMYI), Adult Multicultural Education Services (AMES), Ecumenical Migration Centre (EMC) and the private philanthropic trust which funds the project.

Beginning in September 2007, a pilot project is being conducted in Noble Park, working with sixteen young people aged from 17 – 24 yrs, who are all recently arrived to Australia. These young people are students from either Noble Park English Language School or the Noble Park campus of AMES and were nominated into the program by their teachers according to a profile. For the pilot, the participant profile described students who were: .

- Newly arrived refugee / refugee like background
- 6 – 8 months since arrival in Australia
- 17 – 21 yrs old
- due to exit current environment within the next semester
- ready for work and study and able to participate in the program
- less likely to make smooth transition into existing pathway options at this stage
- Gender and cultural mix of students

A local reference group supports the Ucan2 project and includes representatives from many agencies within the Noble Park area.

Components of the Ucan2 pilot project include:

- Curriculum based on the skills needed for a part-time work position
- Social Support through a group program
- Mentoring by young adults who have experience combining part time work with study
- Part time work opportunities with Coles stores
- Educational case management

Foundation House is coordinating a number of teams working on different areas of this pilot program (curriculum, social support group, mentoring and project management). The pilot program is being evaluated by the Refugee Health Research Centre from October 2007 until the end of the pilot of Ucan2 in March-April 2008

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