



Migrant Resource Centre of South Australia Youth Empowerment Program Annual Report 2009–2010

including



MRCSA

**Newly Arrived Youth Services (NAYS):
a partnership initiative with Anglicare SA
supporting young people at risk**

MRCSA Youth Empowerment Program Report 2009-2010
September 2010
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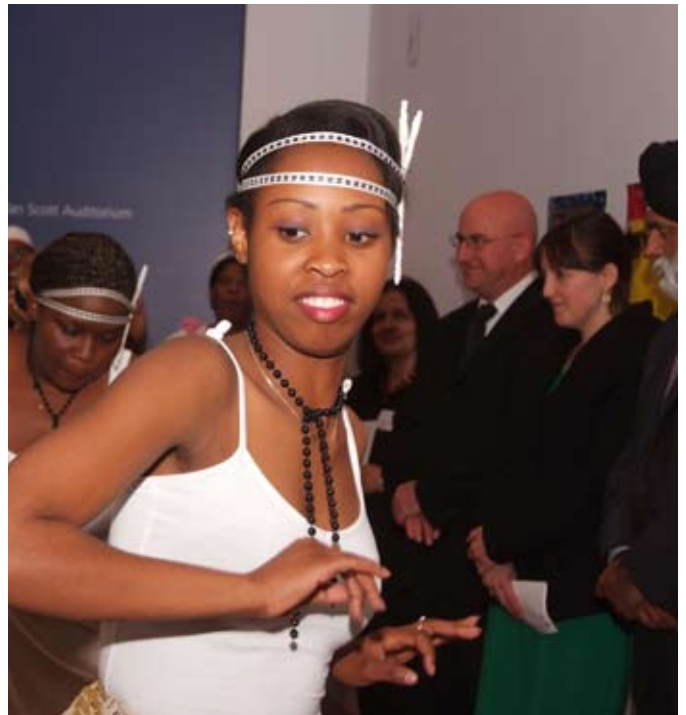
South Australian Multicultural Settlement Services
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Staff

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Overview of MRCSA Youth Empowerment Program

The Migrant Resource Centre of South Australia (MRCSA) Youth Empowerment Program aims to:

- ensure young people at risk and their families receive timely and necessary interventions that address their needs
- ensure young people at risk, their families and communities are supported to reach their full potential and to actively engage in learning, training, work and leadership
- empower young people to develop their own programs and to become their own advocates
- enable young people to participate fully in their families, communities and the wider Australian society
- prepare young people for the future through a range of youth leadership initiatives.

The MRCSA Youth Empowerment Program is targeted to young people from new and emerging communities, including young people who may be at risk. The program provides:

- case management and referrals for young people at risk
- youth training and leadership development program
- engagement with the police
- youth employment pathways
- arts and cultural development
- access to recreation and sport.

These programs target young people of humanitarian background in their first few years of settlement.

The Youth Empowerment Program is resourced by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA), the Australia Council for the Arts, the Office for Youth SA, donations, and in-kind support from our partner organisations, young people participating in the program, and new and emerging communities.

The Newly Arrived Youth Services (NAYS) program is a multifaceted intervention program for young people between the ages of 12 and 21 years from new and emerging communities who are or who may be at risk and in need of intensive support. NAYS is a core youth program delivered by the MRCSA in partnership with Anglicare SA and funded by FaHCSIA.

Principles and key features

The MRCSA applies the following guiding principles when working with young people:

- Youth programs are initiated, led and driven by the young people themselves.
- Youth programs are about connecting young people with their families and communities, affirming their cultural identity and assisting their health and wellbeing in their communities and the broader Australian community.
- Youth programs are initiated and shaped 'from the bottom up'.
- Young people are encouraged and supported to speak for themselves. The MRCSA's role is to support, advise and mentor, as required. The MRCSA provides 'seeding' support for as long as necessary.
- Young people are decision makers. They are nominated to represent their communities and the MRCSA at senior levels.
- Young people are encouraged to volunteer and to work with other young people.
- Young people act as role models, mentors and supporters for other young people.

The MRCSA youth projects have a number of key features. They:

- are multifaceted and tailored to the young person, taking into account culture, religion, education, gender, race and individual needs and aspirations
- focus on establishing long-term engagement with the young person
- engage with the young person by supporting them to identify as a member of a family, a community and Australian society
- empower young people to become leaders and to remain involved in leading their communities
- preserve the family as the core unit and value the strength of the family unit as critical to successful settlement
- reinforce connectedness for the young person by affirming their family, culture, country of origin, refugee/migration experience, and their integration into Australian society.

Migration experience

The circumstances under which these young people arrived in Australia vary. The majority arrived as humanitarian entrants:

- accompanied by family members or a relative acting as their guardian
- acting as guardians of younger siblings or family members
- as unaccompanied minors, aged 18 years and under
- as unaccompanied young adults, aged 18 and over, with no family connections.

The age profile of our new and emerging communities is young. Over 46% of new arrivals are under 21 years of age.

When young refugees arrive in Australia they face a number of challenges. They need to reunite with their families while also beginning a new life, establishing new friends and networks, and finding ways to link into the mainstream community.

The refugee/migration experience of each young person is unique, and their settlement needs are specific. Young people need to find their place and to reconnect with family and community. They need to deal with issues around culture, language, religious identity, grief and loss, the justice system, consumer culture and intergenerational tension. Young people also need ways of dealing with race, racism and their identity.

Young people need to be engaged at all levels to ensure that they develop a belief in themselves as citizens with valuable contributions to make to their communities and Australian society.



Program Summary

Through its new arrival humanitarian settlement program, the MRCSA has been an advocate and a voice for the inclusion and participation of young people of refugee background. The MRCSA Youth Empowerment Program has, since 1998, addressed the needs of young people from new and emerging communities in South Australia through a multifaceted program. This program provides young people with a range of services that aim to further their resilience, leadership skills, and pathways to employment and independence. These services fall under a range of categories and will be described more fully in the report.

Table 1 provides a breakdown of the ethnicity and gender of the 561 young people who actively participated in the different components of the MRCSA Youth Empowerment Program during 2009-10. Under the program, over 100 young people at risk received case management and counselling through the NAYS program. The majority of participants in the Youth Empowerment Program are in their first three years of settlement.

Program area	Participants	Gender	
		M	F
NAYS	104	62	42
Sport & recreation	33	20	13
Leadership program	68	46	22
Multicultural Youth Link SA (MYLSA)	50	33	17
Youth Parliament	10	4	6
Employment pathways	110	68	42
Arts projects	154	94	60
Justice system	32	26	8
Total	561	353	210

Table 1. Participants in the MRCSA Youth Empowerment Program 2009-10 by program area and gender

Early intervention and case management

NAYS is a core youth program delivered by the MRCSA in partnership with Anglicare SA. The program is funded by FaHCSIA. NAYS is a specialised multifaceted service/program for newly arrived young people from new and emerging communities who are deemed to be at risk and who require comprehensive case management.

In 2009-10, 104 young people were assisted through the NAYS program delivered by the MRCSA. Through forums, conferences, face-to-face counselling and mentoring, the young people participating in the NAYS program identified a range of needs and issues. Needs addressed included sports and recreation, mental health counselling, pathways to employment, budgeting skills and financial counselling, accommodation, advocacy and leadership development, independent living skills, and cultural and social activities.

Consultations and forums

The MRCSA conducted a number of consultative workshops to ensure that young people informed program and policy development. Through ongoing engagement with the mainstream, the MRCSA promoted the participation of this youth group in forums, including the SA Youth Parliament Program; consultations with the Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology and TAFE SA on vocational training programs; the United Nations Youth Forum; Amnesty International on Human Rights; the Governor's Leadership Foundation on Youth Housing Policy; and consultations with the Hon. Kate Ellis, MP, Minister for Youth.

Mentoring

Young people are interested in dynamic leadership that is inspirational and focused on professional development and mentoring. Multicultural Youth Link SA spearheaded this initiative of project management and participation in mainstream activities. Through providing peer support, Multicultural Youth Link SA has been instrumental in supporting at risk young people within their communities and through NAYS.

Vocational education, training and employment

In partnership with TAFE SA, the MRCSA conducted a number of training programs for young people who were not engaged in school or work. Specific training included Certificate II in Information Technology, Productivity Places Program Certificate II, volunteering, work experience, capacity building, apprenticeships and traineeships.

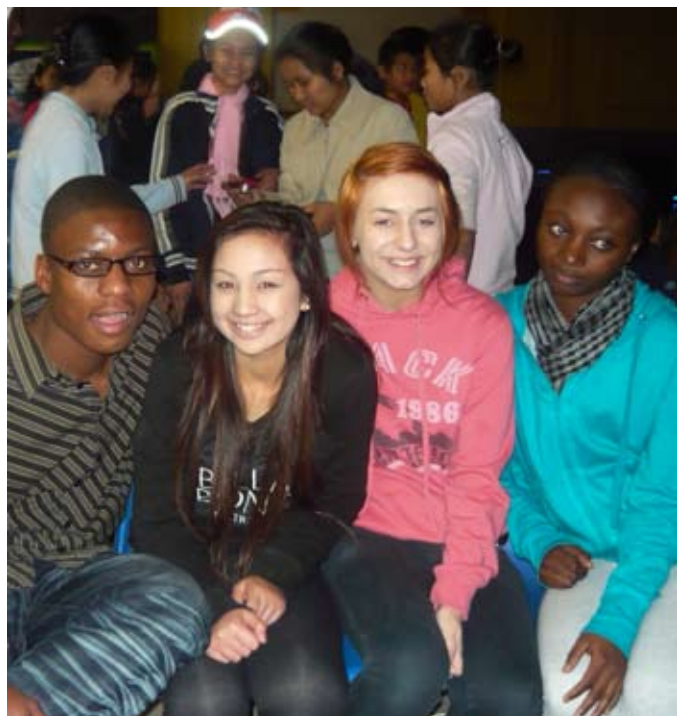
Young people in the arts

The MRCSA managed four youth projects: 'UnderXposed', a youth photographic project encouraging young people to tell their stories through photographic journalism; a creative writing project where young people were encouraged to relate their experiences through poetry and short stories; The magic waterhole, a play performed as part of the 'Come Out Festival'; and 'Sudan in Concert' where over 100 young people joined a cast of 250 performers.

Sport and recreation

Sport and recreation has brought young people together. It has also provided a platform for informal education in health, teamwork, discipline, and conflict resolution. Sport and recreation has fostered psychological benefits, such as reducing depression and enhancing physical fitness. Through advocacy and partnerships, the MRCSA has linked young people to mainstream sports and recreation, including the Adelaide United Football Club Academy Program, the Multicultural Young Women's Soccer Program, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Program, and the Australian Football League (AFL) Multicultural Program.

The sport and recreation program is underpinned by a strong ethos of working in partnerships – between individual young people, Multicultural Youth Link SA (established and managed by the young people themselves), service agencies, and community groups. These partners are listed in the Acknowledgements on page 4.



Early intervention and case management for young people at risk

Newly Arrived Youth Services (NAYS)

NAYS is a multifaceted intervention program for young people from refugee backgrounds between the ages of 12 and 21 years who are at risk and in need of intensive support through comprehensive case management. Through the NAYS program young people at risk are supported to overcome personal and/or social barriers to achieving full social and economic participation in their communities.

The NAYS program is delivered by the MRCSA in partnership with Anglicare SA and is funded by FaHCSIA. The main objective of NAYS is to provide integrated and seamless Reconnect service delivery for newly arrived young people and their families through 'multifunctional' service providers.

Young people are referred to the program by their families, their communities, and service agencies, including the police and schools. Some young people self refer.

The NAYS program focuses on those young people who are vulnerable and at risk of becoming:

- disconnected from their families, friends and communities
- isolated and unaware of services that can help them
- homeless
- drug and/or alcohol dependent
- a casualty of the juvenile justice system
- mentally ill.

What distinguishes this group of young refugees from those who participate in other aspects of the Youth Empowerment Program is that they have multiple and complex needs that do not necessarily mirror the experiences of other young people from new and emerging communities who are connected to their families and communities, permanently housed, doing well at school, not experiencing health or mental health problems, and/or are actively involved in the life of their community.

NAYS aims to assist young people by direct delivery of services or by assessment and referral to other appropriate agencies. The program also provides the necessary advocacy and support to ensure outcomes from these referrals.

Young people are assisted from their arrival through early intervention and crisis support until they acquire independent living skills and become part of the wider community.

NAYS assists young people through:

- providing early intervention and crisis support in ways that are culturally and contextually appropriate
- providing justice education, empowerment pathways, community development and engagement that is tailored to meet the specific needs of young people; for example, integrating young people at risk with other young people who are possible role models
- reconnecting young people with family and the broader community.

Outcomes

During 2009–10, the MRCSA case managed 104 clients (62 males and 42 females), of which 36 were identified as having multiple and complex needs and who therefore remained in the program for 6–12 months. Most of the young people who participated in the program were within three years of arrival to Australia and the majority were humanitarian entrants (young people from all visa categories are eligible for support under NAYS). Table 2 gives a breakdown of the ethnicity and gender of NAYS clients in 2009–10.

Through forums, conferences, face-to-face counselling and mentoring, the young people identified a number of issues and needs. These included unemployment, education, social isolation, interface with the justice system, intergenerational conflict, family relationships, repeat offending, mental health, lack of family support, and unaccompanied minors.

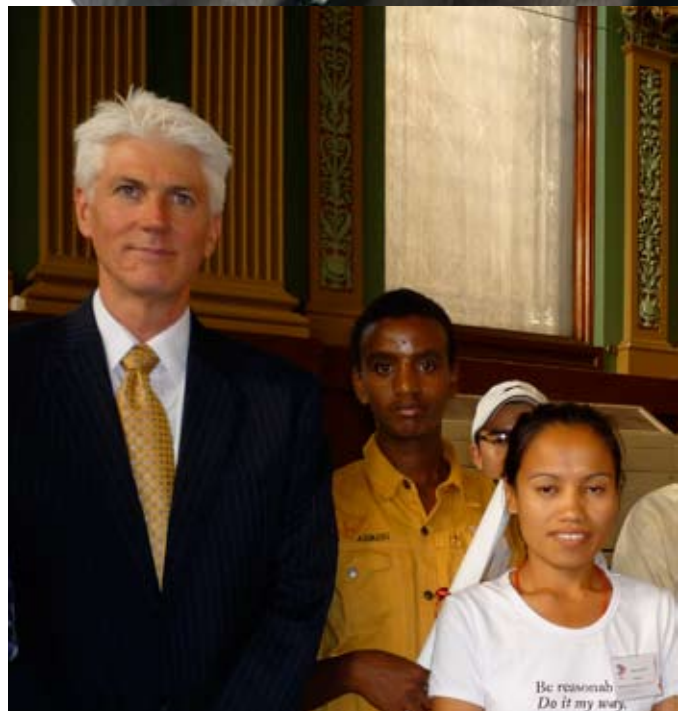
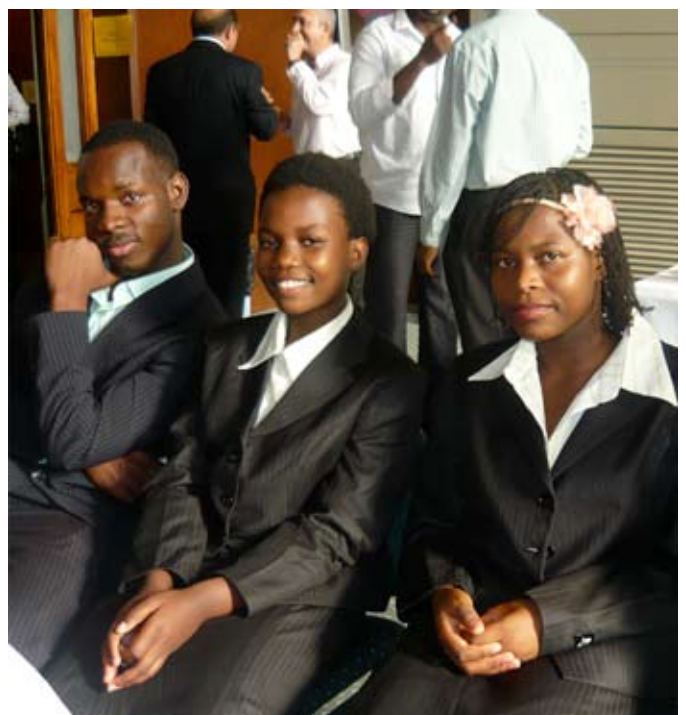
During 2009–10, a range of needs were addressed through the NAYS program, including sports and recreation, employment pathways, mental health counselling, financial counselling and budgeting skills, affordable accommodation, advocacy, leadership development, independent living skills, capacity building, and cultural and social activities.

The MRCSA worked in collaboration with a number of agencies and community groups to deliver the NAYS program during 2009–10, including Anglicare SA; African Communities Council SA; Middle Eastern Communities Council SA;

Bhutanese Community SA; Families SA; Office for Youth SA; YMCA; Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology SA; Football Federation SA; Basketball SA; Adelaide United Football Club; SA National Football League; SA Police; Centrelink; Multicultural SA; Operation Flinders Foundation; SafeWork SA; Legal Services Commission; Arts SA; University of South Australia; and schools.

Ethnicity	M	F	Total
Afghanis	8	2	10
Bhutanese	15	4	19
Burmese	1	3	4
Burundians	3	1	4
Congolese	6	3	9
Eritreans	0	2	2
Ethiopians	1	2	3
Iranians	2	3	5
Iraqis	1	1	2
Liberians	3	4	7
Sudanese	20	15	35
Togolese	1	2	3
Ugandans	1	0	1
Total	62	42	104

Table 2. NAYS clients by ethnicity



Youth mentoring

Multicultural Youth Link South Australia (MYLSA)

Multicultural Youth Link SA (MYLSA) is a registered association, which formed about two years ago and is managed by the young people themselves. It has a leadership structure headed by a president and nine other office bearers: Mr Avishek Gazmere, Mr Larry Paye, Mr Possible Muyaya, Miss Chanda Subedi, Mr Issac Aluong, Mr Rahim Ahmed, Miss Arek Piol, Mr Victor Matong and Mr Denish Bhungiana. The committee is independent and advises the MRCSA on youth matters.

MYLSA has established a forum where young people come together periodically to mentor each other and to discuss settlement and other issues of concern to them. The MRCSA has a formal partnership with, and provides a venue for, MYLSA and runs leadership training to guide the group on self-management. Given the diversity within the youth group, having a formal body such as the MYLSA was considered an ideal way to network between their cultural groups and the mainstream, to provide peer support and to promote multiculturalism within the new communities. During 2009-10, MYLSA met once a month to plan and coordinate activities. Table 3 shows the diversity of ethnicity and gender of the 50 young people who participated in MYLSA in 2009-10.

The aims of MYLSA are:

- to provide educational support to young people from the new and emerging communities through training workshops, forums and conferences
- to identify young people with leadership potential and help develop their leadership capacities through leadership training programs
- to lobby for grants from government and other agencies to promote refugee youth activities
- to promote cultural diversity through linkages with mainstream youth groups in South Australia, Australia and overseas
- to promote friendship and harmony among the young people and their communities
- to organise sporting, recreational and social activities in which young people can participate and develop their talents and skills
- to provide social support and a network for young

people, especially for newly arrived young people and those at risk.

Outcomes

During 2009-10, the MRCSA assisted the MYLSA in achieving the following:

- engaged with the mainstream through forums and other leadership training
- applied collective bargaining power to achieve recognition by mainstream youth agencies
- participated in the 2009 United Nations Youth Forum, SA Youth Parliament and the Multicultural Youth Affairs Committee
- participated in consultations and research conducted internally by the MRCSA
- provided a forum for transferring knowledge and skills to less experienced young people and built cross-cultural relationships
- assisted four youth-specific groups by providing training in developing governance structures, setting up management bodies, accountability frameworks, holding meetings, writing constitutions, etc. The youth groups assisted were the Sierra Leone Youth Group, All Star Soccer Club and Nile Youth SA.

Ethnicity	Males	Females	Total
Afghanis	4	1	5
Bhutanese	4	4	8
Burmese	2	1	3
Burundians	1	2	3
Congolese	3	2	5
Iranians	2	1	3
Liberians	2	3	5
Sierra Leone	2	2	4
Somali	1	2	3
Sudanese	4	4	8
Togolese	1	1	2
Ugandans	1	0	1
Total	27	23	50

Table 3. Ethnicity and gender of Multicultural Youth Link SA participants 2009-10

Education, vocational training and employment

Forum on vocational training and employment

Young people from new and emerging communities continue to be under represented in apprenticeships and traineeships despite experiencing much higher unemployment rates than do Australian-born young people. They are also more likely to disengage from school without adequate preparation for employment and with limited knowledge of the programs and support services that can assist them to re-engage with further education and training.

The MRCSA, in partnership with the Department of Education, Employment, Further Training, Science and Technology (DFEEST) and TAFE SA, consulted with young people during the MRCSA Youth Leadership Residential Camp in April 2010. The purpose of the consultation was to establish how young people can be supported through apprenticeships and traineeships.

The consultation was organised in response to an ongoing issue for young people participating in the employment program within the first three years of their arrival to Australia. They had not yet developed effective job seeking skills and expressed a keen interest in apprenticeships and traineeships in areas of skills shortage. Subsequently, the training reinforced the value of pre-vocational and pre-apprenticeship programs as a way to address barriers to work for these young people.

Some of the participants required gap training and identified that refresher/bridging programs, such as conversational English programs that offer both gap training and integrated English language and communication skills training, need to be more widely available, including for those in full-time employment.

The program targeted young people who:

- were not engaged in employment or work and had limited understanding of vocational education and training pathways
- had withdrawn from post-school study or were identified as being at risk of discontinuing study as a result of inappropriate vocational pathway choices
- required gap training in order to have their overseas

skills and qualifications recognised.

Specific pre-vocational and pre-apprenticeship programs were promoted to the young people as a way to improve their chances of gaining an apprenticeship. Group sessions, one-on-one interviews, information packages targeting specific needs, and materials on apprenticeships and traineeships were provided.

The MRCSA will continue to provide the following services to young people:

- career and course information to reinforce appropriate vocational pathways
- referral to pre-vocational and pre-apprenticeship programs offered by TAFE SA
- follow-up support and referral to career and counselling services as required
- referral to employers, particularly Group Training Organisations (GTOs).

The forum was facilitated by:

Leanne Gerekaroff, VET Liaison Officer and Advisor, TAFE SA
Nici Smith, Education & Communication Coordinator (DFEEST)

Prue Hemming, Employment Consultant, MRCSA
Nedzac Hanic, Employment and Training Manager, MRCSA
Rosaria Sng, Employment Consultant, Anglicare SA

Forum recommendations

The forum recommended the following initiatives:

- future policy and program development to reflect ways to engage key stakeholders in working collaboratively to assist disengaged youth, by supporting partnership arrangements between employers and employer support services and vocational education and training agencies
- a wage subsidy for employers for the first two weeks of a young person's employment, allowing time for employers to assess the suitability of the young person
- post-placement support for employers and apprentices, with more intensive support to be provided for disengaged young people
- ensuring that disengaged young people have access to opportunities to complete pre-vocational programs that incorporate relevant 'soft' skills

- linking young people to large businesses that take on apprentices and trainees
- improving employers' access to suitable employees through an effective and flexible recruitment service
- accessing government incentives under the apprenticeship program and ensuring apprentices are provided with training opportunities to enhance their performance in the workplace
- applying resources to sustainable vocational education and training programs
- supporting under-employed youth to use their overseas' gained qualifications and skills in the Australian labour market
- Multicultural Youth Link SA to contribute to planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating programs designed to reinforce vocational education and training pathways and employment outcomes.



Training and employment pathways

Chatterbox program

Throughout 2009-10, the MRCSA, in partnership with Anglicare SA, conducted training workshops and forums on employment pathways for young people from new and emerging communities.

Key components of the training included safety and fairness at work, Australian workplace culture, interview preparation, online job searching, communication skills, customer service, work experience, Chatterbox, volunteering, and intensive one-on-one mentoring.

Each training workshop ran for two hours and attracted between 10 and 15 participants. The workshops were not conducted in typical classroom style; they were intended to be relaxed, youth friendly, interactive and fun. The only requirement was that participants spoke English during the workshop, because one of the key purposes of the Chatterbox program was to provide participants with an opportunity to practice their English. The young people in the program had varying English literacy levels. Most (95%) had never had a paid job, and 74% had never attended employment training.

The MRCSA, in partnership with Anglicare SA, will continue to run the Chatterbox program, which provides the following services:

- conversational English
- access to phone, fax, internet, computers, printers and photocopiers
- access to employers
- résumé writing and interview skills
- training in basic rights and entitlements
- career counselling and mentoring
- improved literacy and computer skills
- online job application
- opportunities for volunteering
- opportunities for work experience
- referrals to other services.

Participants expressed a need for follow-up contact with the MRCSA Training and Employment program and consented to be contacted as part of the program evaluation. Although participants reported significant barriers to employment,

including low English proficiency, lack of computer skills and lack of previous work experience, 84 young people (52 females and 32 males) gained employment (full-time, part-time and casual), through the program. Table 4 shows the ethnicity of the young people who gained employment through the program.

Ethnicity	Total
Afghanis	24
Bhutanese	10
Burmese	2
Burundians	6
Congolese	7
Iraqis	1
Liberians	9
Pakistanis	1
Sierra Leone	5
Somali	11
Sudanese	6
Togolese	2
Total	84

Table 4. Young people who gained employment through the Chatterbox program 2009-10

IT project

In partnership with TAFE SA, the MRCSA provided a training course in information technology (IT) for young people. The project targeted young people from new and emerging communities who were not engaged in work or school. The project provided career planning, counselling sessions, and links to other training opportunities and/or work experience. Of the young people who participated in the project, five enrolled at university, nine continued training at TAFE SA, three applied to commence training at TAFE SA in Term 3, and one gained employment. The partners in the IT project were TAFE SA Adelaide City Campus, South Australia Works in Communities Adult Community Education (ACE) Program, and DFEEST.

Youth volunteering and mentoring

The MRCSA youth volunteer team consisted of 45 active culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) young people of humanitarian entrant background, aged 18-24 years. They came from the following ethnicities: Bhutanese, Afghani, Burundi, Burmese, Congolese, Iraqi, Iranian, Sudanese, and others.

They were recruited, inducted and trained in workplace ethics and industrial and legal responsibilities, including occupational health, safety and welfare (OHS&W); reporting; client services; youth rights; public speaking; career and training pathways to enhance skills; and capacity building as role models and mentors to their respective communities. As volunteers, they played an important role in inspiring other young new arrivals with their confidence and knowledge while engaging them in activities such as youth support groups, shopping, city orientation and 'buddying'. They also linked them to meaningful activities, including sport and recreation.

Outcomes

The outcomes for 2009-10 were as follows:

- front-of-house volunteer trainees - CALD youth buddy group
- 15 volunteers recruited for the Certificate I in Active Volunteering with TAFE SA, commencing in July 2010
- three training workshops in interpreting skills
- participation in two major events: Celebrating Volunteering on 29 June during the 2010 SA Refugee Week, and the Annual General Meeting in February in recognition of volunteers' achievements and contributions
- successfully setting up the buddy support groups for CALD volunteers to meet regularly; for example, the DiDi Club and the CALD Youth Group.

Partner agencies were Inclusive Diversity, Hepatitis C Council of SA, the SA Minister for Volunteering, Attorney-General's Department SA, Relationships Australia, SafeWork SA, Department of Premier and the Cabinet SA, SA Metropolitan Fire Service, Mental Health Australia, Government of South Australia Office for Volunteers, Volunteering SA & NT, SA Refugee Health Network, NAATI, and Migrant Health Service SA.



Youth empowerment and leadership development

The Youth Leaders Residential Forum 2010

The MRCSA conducts youth leadership training throughout the year. These initiatives target leadership capacity building, employment pathways, sport and recreation, the arts, health and wellbeing, and advocacy, among others. Forums also provide an opportunity for young people to engage with various heads of government and community agencies and to inform policy makers and government agencies on policies relevant to their specific needs.

The annual Youth Leaders Residential Forum is a regular and valued feature of the MRCSA Youth Empowerment Program. The 2010 forum was held 6-9 April at Nunyara Conference Centre, Belair, South Australia and was attended by 68 selected from the 150 youth leaders who registered their interest. The attendees were the voices of their respective communities plus ten young people in the NAYS program. The latter were an identified vulnerable group of refugee youth expected to benefit from the face-to-face contact with peers who could act as role models and/or 'big brother' or 'big sister' buddies.

The aim of forum sessions was to address needs expressed by young people during pre-camp meetings and previous youth consultations. The youth leadership team and forum mentors, who held the pre-camp meetings to develop the forum program, decided on the following session types:

- team bonding activities
- inspirational community speakers
- interactive sessions with speakers on education, training and employment, police liaison and Australian law for young people
- cultural performances, such as African drumming and a dance workshop
- social and fun activities, such as bush walking, orienteering, a quiz night, and basketball and soccer clinics.

Participants at the Youth Leaders Residential Forum were actively involved in the sessions during the four-day forum, which consisted of information sharing and discussions on themes around their refugee experiences, settlement in Australia – particularly the justice system – sport and

recreation, employment pathways, arts and cultural development, and educational and training pathways. Participants were encouraged to demonstrate their leadership skills at the forum.

Participants were enthusiastic and interested in most sessions and were exceptional during the active, outdoor and social activities. The interactive sessions allowed participants to gain information, to raise questions, and to share and reflect on their personal experiences of accessing schools and training, seeking employment, contact with the police, and brushes with the law. The cultural and social sessions confirmed the participants' energy and passion for song, dance and music and their willingness to make friends and alliances with other participants.

There was great excitement among participants when the newly appointed Minister for Youth and Multicultural Affairs, the Hon. Grace Portolesi MP, joined in the cultural night. The evening's highlight was the presentation of certificates to each of the five team leaders for their valuable contribution in leading their teams at the various forum sessions. Participants' performances at the cultural night reflected aspects of their culture, in particular the songs by the Burmese contingent, dances by the Bhutanese, Afghani and Iraqi participants, and a comical skit by the Sudanese participants.

Target group

The forum targeted youth leaders from new and emerging communities aged 15-24 years who were nominated as the voices of their respective communities. Forum participants were selected from over 150 registrations received by the MRCSA youth leadership team. The composition of this year's forum participants appears in Table 5.

Ethnicity	Male	Female	Total
Afghanis	10	2	12
Bhutanese	13	7	20
Burmese	4	2	6
Burundians	1	1	2
Congolese	3	1	4
Iraqis	3	2	5
Liberians	6	3	9
Sudanese	7	4	11
Total	47	22	69

Table 5. Participants in the Youth Leaders Residential Forum 2010 by ethnicity and gender

Outcomes

The Youth Leadership Forum 2010 achieved the following:

- leadership skills demonstrated among young Muslim women participants
- inspirational session with Sudanese achiever Paul Atem who, in spite of his tragic refugee experiences as one of the 'lost boys', has undertaken university studies, worked in government and is currently pursuing postgraduate studies and research
- immediate rapport and cross-cultural engagement between a very diverse group of young people of African, Middle Eastern and Asian ethnicities
- display of excellent soccer skills among young male participants and artistic skills among many young people
- meeting with the new South Australian Minister for Youth and Multicultural Affairs
- 10 forum participants nominated to participate in the SA Youth Parliament Program 2010.

The MRCSA was privileged to have the support of forum presenters from Basketball SA and Soccer Federation SA; and speakers, including the Hon. Grace Portolesi MP, Minister for Youth and Multicultural Affairs; Eugenia Tsoulis, CEO, MRCSA; Keith Preston, MRCSA Community Arts Manager; Sgt Kym Foster and Constables Tamara Shwarck and Juma Abuyi from SA Police; Prue Hemming, Consultant, and Ned Hanic, Manager, MRCSA Training and Employment; and Christian Cifuentes and John Mugamushaka, Legal Services Commission.



Youth engagement and representation

Youth participation in mainstream decision making is a key to bridging the settlement gap for young refugees. Therefore, Multicultural Youth Link SA was involved in a number of forums and conferences at all levels of government to inform future policy and to make recommendations about how best to address youth issues. These included:

- the SA Youth Parliament Program 2010
- the United Nations Youth Forum April 2010
- the Governor's Leadership Foundation on Youth Housing Policy 2009
- Centrelink Multicultural Unit on changes to Youth Allowance 2009
- dialogue with the Minister for Youth, the Hon. Kate Ellis MP, 2010
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award Youth Leadership Forum 2009
- SA Police and Legal Services Commission, Youth Justice System
- Amnesty International on Human Rights Issues 2010

United Nations Youth Association SA State Conference 2010

The United Nations Youth Association (UNYA) SA division held its conference 26–28 April 2010 at Old House, Woodhouse Activity Centre, Piccadilly. UNYA SA State Conference is an event where young South Australians come together to discuss a range of issues that confront the United Nations and Australia. For the past three years, the conference has been a regular feature of the leadership development program for young people from new and emerging communities. The MRCSA nominated three young people for the 2010 conference, assisting them to participate and contribute to the event.

UNYA gives young people the opportunity to be involved in a wide range of issues, from human rights and peacekeeping to greenhouse gases and clean water. UNYA Australia aims to develop students' skills in areas such as debating, negotiation, leadership, problem solving and developing an understanding of international affairs in an accessible and supportive environment. The theme of this year's conference was human rights. By encouraging young people to discuss and debate important issues among their peers and the broader community, UNYA Australia gives voice to the concerns of young people. UNYA Australia plays a dual role as

an educational body and as an advocacy body for Australia's young people.

The three young people nominated by MRCSA to represent Multicultural Youth Link SA at the 2010 UNYA State Conference were Ms Pauline Masika, Ms Tee Karto and Mr Joe Taye. These representatives learned about the work of the United Nations, gained knowledge of international affairs and civil society, represented the views of young people from new and emerging communities in public debate, and networked and socialised with their peers from the mainstream community.

The MRCSA will continue to work in partnership with UNYA SA to ensure that the views of young people from new and emerging community are represented in this forum.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Program Leadership Training

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Program is a youth development program for young people aged 14–25 years. It runs in more than 125 countries around the world, and has existed for more than 50 years. About 25 000 young people are currently taking part in the program in Australia, and to date nearly 500 000 Australians have participated.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is an integrated program with two important aspects that provide a foundation for empowering young people, enabling them to increase the control and influence they have over their own lives; the program:

- equips young people with skills so they can better participate in community life and take more responsibility for their lives now and in their ongoing transition to adulthood
- provides opportunities for young people to better participate in community life using their skills and initiative to take better control and/or have influence over their lives.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Program, a project of the Office for Youth SA, provided the first leadership training for young people from new and emerging communities.

Ethnicity	Females	Male
Afghanis	1	0
Bhutanese	5	8
Burundians	0	1
Congolese	3	1
Ethiopians	1	1
Liberians	2	0
Sudanese	0	1
Total	12	12

Table 6. Participants in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Program 2009 by ethnicity and gender

in August 2009. The program is designed to empower disadvantaged young people across South Australia through their participation in a locally delivered, locally supported program of activities. The MRCSA worked in partnership with the Office for Youth SA to deliver the program to 24 young people from new and emerging communities. Table 6 shows the ethnicity and gender of the young people who took part.

Outcomes

The MRCSA is a registered licensed operator of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Program in South Australia. This allows the MRCSA youth participants in the program to connect with other organisations, schools and community groups locally and around Australia, through national events, social media sites Twitter and Facebook, and a monthly newsletter detailing the latest news and stories.

The 24 young people registered for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Program have completed the Bronze Award.

Each participant received \$150 to assist them with the leadership training program.

The initiative assisted young people to develop self-confidence, positive relationships with others and their leadership potential.

The SA Youth Parliament 2010

The Youth Parliament is one of the most successful programs to which young people from new and emerging communities contribute significantly. The Youth Parliament is an annual program that engages young people from metropolitan, rural, private and public schools in learning about South Australian parliamentary processes. Each year, the MRCSA, through the communities, nominates and sponsors ten young people to participate in the program.

The Youth Parliament engages young people in parliamentary debates and political education. It gives them the opportunity to role play as parliamentarians and parliamentary officers in a one-hour debate, developing their knowledge about democracy, the Australian political system, the process of law-making and collaborative decision-making systems. The participants receive training in teamwork, debating, public speaking, public relations, leadership, and parliamentary procedures.

The MRCSA Youth Parliament team met every Friday for three months at the MRCSA for training in parliamentary procedures and the development of Bills. YMCA mentor and former youth parliamentarian Ms Ellen McLoughlin provided the training.

The 2010 Youth Parliament program was held 12-16 July. Youth Parliament operates exactly like State Parliament, with members formally debating Bills in the South Australian parliamentary chambers.

The 2010 Bill

The Bill tabled by the MRCSA in the 2010 Youth Parliament was the Students Support Officers Reform Bill. The Bill proposed that student support officers in South Australian schools have compulsory training in assisting English as a Second Language (ESL) students. The Bill was passed in the House of Assembly; but in the Legislative Council it failed by three votes with six members abstaining.

The Bill proposed:

- that student support officers in South Australian educational institutions be supported to improve education outcomes for ESL students and for students with learning or other disabilities
- that literacy, financial and professional resources be made available to student support officers to improve the level of support they can offer students
- the formation of a student support board, which would be responsible for examining and considering the need and funding for training of student support officers, particularly those involved with targeted students
- that efforts be made to raise awareness of language barriers associated with migrating to an English-speaking country
- that student support officers undertake extensive ESL teacher training to ensure that students' needs are met through a range of methodologies and pedagogies
- the establishment and development of a range of pathways for student support officers to help guide ESL students to become active members in a multicultural community
- that mainstream students with learning or other disabilities be supported.

Outcomes

Through participation in the Youth Parliament, the young people contributed to public debate and informed the public of their concerns. They gained skills in public speaking, teamwork and negotiation, which they can use in their engagement with their communities and with the mainstream. The young people had the opportunity to advocate on behalf of their peer group.

The communities represented by the young people embraced and acknowledged this project as:

- contributing to social inclusion
- enhancing understanding of parliamentary procedures
- improving public relations
- developing leadership skills.

The involvement of the youth group in the broader project indicates the willingness of mainstream youth to embrace cultural diversity. This has led to young people of refugee background and their communities feeling a greater sense of belonging to the broader society.

Names	Sex	Ethnicity
Rahim Ahmadi	M	Afghani
Yasin Ahmadi	M	Afghani
Alisha Sunar	F	Bhutanese
Avishek Gazmere	M	Bhutanese
Joadine Ndambijimana	F	Burundi
Possible Diessa	M	Congolese
Mariam Mananeka	F	Congolese
Sandra Elhelw	F	Egyptian
Piol Arek	F	Sudanese
Abuk Dut	F	Sudanese

Table 7. The 2010 SA Youth Parliament participants

Centrelink forum

The MRCSA, in partnership with Centrelink SA Multicultural Branch, organised a forum for young people from new and emerging communities to inform them of recent changes to student income support. The forum was facilitated by Centrelink Multicultural Officer Tanya Kaplan.

The changes to student income support – Youth Allowance, Austudy and Abstudy – were passed successfully through the Australian Parliament in March 2010. The purpose of the forum was to inform the young people of changes that would have a direct bearing on their entitlements. One of the key questions raised was about the implications of the changes, especially for students nearing the completion of their secondary schooling. Youth Allowance eligibility is an important consideration for students when deciding what to do in their first year out of school.

Engagement with the police through justice education

The MRCSA aims to combat juvenile delinquency by addressing the risk factors to which young people are exposed while also focusing on protective factors available to them. In so doing, the MRCSA engages young people through training and education delivered in a culturally appropriate way.

Although law enforcement is only one means by which police and youth interact, it is the means that receives the greatest public attention. The MRCSA has developed an innovative strategy: a forum where the police and young people interact in a friendly atmosphere. During 2009–10, South Australia Police (SAPOL), in partnership with the MRCSA, provided eight information sessions for young people of refugee background aimed at combating juvenile delinquency.

The crime prevention initiative by SAPOL is primarily delivered in group sessions with participants engaging in dialogue in a youth friendly atmosphere. It targets young offenders and those at risk of becoming offenders. The initiative increased the awareness of the role of police and Australian law, the juvenile system, community safety, road rules, equal opportunity, and the right to make a complaint. In such a forum, the police have the opportunity to provide crime prevention information to young people face-to-face.

Through this strategy, a considerable amount of time has been devoted to improving police-youth relations. By hearing about the personal experiences of young people, the police have gained insights into the issues young people face, and this has helped inform youth policing.

Crime prevention and community safety forum

Knowledge of the justice system is important for all communities settling in Australia. The Legal Services Commission, in partnership with the MRCSA, provided legal education for young people from new and emerging communities during the MRCSA Youth Leaders Residential Forum held 6–9 April 2010. This was supplementary to the regular sessions provided by SAPOL, described above. The forum was significant in improving the young people's awareness of their rights and obligations. It also increased their knowledge of Australian law, provided information

about accessing legal assistance, and identified needs and gaps in legal service provision. The reaction of the young people was very positive. They willingly voiced their opinions and gave feedback.

Outcomes

- regular youth forums to facilitate youth justice information
- an improved understanding of what constitutes anti-social behaviour, assault and family violence. The message is that these are criminal offences that can result in long-term effects for victims and can attract serious legal consequences for offenders
- awareness of the need to seek legal advice when faced with a problem
- strengthened attitudes and behaviours that support respectful relationships
- SAPOL to provide ongoing information sessions about crime prevention and community safety, especially for newly arrived young people
- early identification of young people at risk and involving them in youth activities
- improved police-youth links and relationships through ongoing consultation
- continued awareness-raising about the justice system for young people
- subsidy provision for driving licenses, as most young people cannot afford to pay for the course
- reduced police stereotyping of young people
- discouragement of sensationalist media reporting
- increased awareness of relationship and gender violence among young people
- increased willingness to speak out, act on and report relationship and gender violence
- the fostering of a culture that does not tolerate violence and supports victims
- increased ability to appropriately handle conflict and make positive choices.

Highlights

- The MRCSA, in partnership with SAPOL, has continued to provide police force pre-entry training for young people.
- SAPOL has appointed an African liaison officer.
- A youth focus group has been established. It meets monthly to deliberate on emerging issues and to report to Multicultural Youth Link SA.
- Eight justice education workshops were conducted, attended by 65 young people.
- Multicultural Youth Link SA was involved in a crime-prevention campaign. This has contributed to a significant reduction in crime rates among young people.

According to young people and the Adelaide Police, ongoing consultations have improved police-youth relations and reduced over-policing within the central business district. Continuing positive engagement with the police ensures early intervention strategies are implemented and young people are involved in decision making.



Sport and recreation

The MRCSA Youth Empowerment Program identifies sport as a major priority for young people, along with housing, employment and education. For newly arrived young people, sport and recreation can help the integration and resettlement process by assisting with language proficiency, providing a pathway into an integral part of Australian society, as well as maintaining cultural identity and a sense of purpose. Sport and recreational activities also help address anti-social behaviours, improve mental health and wellbeing, help to develop social connectedness, and facilitate social inclusion and cohesion.

Therefore, the MRCSA has advocated, liaised, and developed partnerships and referral pathways with a number of sport and recreational agencies to engage young people. Nevertheless, anecdotal evidence still suggests that young people from new and emerging communities continue to be underrepresented in mainstream sports.

South Australia National Football League (SANFL) Multicultural Program

The MRCSA has worked closely with the AFL Multicultural Program to build strong working relationships with young people from new and emerging communities to identify barriers and to develop strategies to encourage their involvement in the game. It is recognised that football can bring people from diverse cultural backgrounds together. Early in 2010, the MRCSA was asked to nominate young people for a world team to participate in the under-16 national championships in July 2010.

This led to the SANFL forming a partnership with the Adelaide Secondary School of English and the MRCSA with the purpose of starting a multicultural academy at the school. The academy is in its infancy, with training being held every Monday from 3.15 pm to 4.30 pm.

The SANFL Multicultural Program is facilitated by Peter Cates, manager of the SANFL Inclusive Program. This is a long-term venture, and the MRCSA intends to build on the academy by:

- referring young people from its client group to the program

- sourcing participants from the refugee communities
- increasing the number of female participants in the program.

Highlights

- A football introduction program started at the Adelaide Secondary School of English in which 25 young people participated; 14 were from new and emerging communities.
- Garang Lual, 16, and Emmanuel Irra, 16, who play in the South Australia Football Club squads, were selected to participate in a training camp and curtain-raiser match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in Victoria. If selected for the final team, they will travel to Sydney to participate in the under-16 national championships.
- The MRCSA/AFL Multicultural Program established the foundation and built positive relationships between the local Australian football clubs and new and emerging communities.
- Young people have a better understanding of the benefits of becoming involved in Australian football, and a number of them have registered and are playing in their local football clubs.
- The program will raise awareness among the Australian football community about young people from new and emerging communities: their potential, the benefits of their participation and inclusion, as well as the barriers they face.
- The two young boys representing South Australia in the under-16 multicultural competition have become 'multicultural ambassadors'.
- The MRCSA will continue to partner the SANFL Multicultural Program in developing opportunities to engage young people from new and emerging communities in broadening their participation and support-base within Australian football.

Adelaide United Football Club Soccer Academy

The Adelaide United FC established a soccer academy for young boys and girls aged 8-14 years. The academy aims to identify, develop and foster talented junior South Australian footballers through the existing pathway by monitoring

and managing their improvement throughout the coaching program. The academy is the first of its kind in South Australia.

The MRCSA, in partnership with Adelaide United FC, facilitated and promoted this program for young people from new and emerging communities. Through the partnership, the club offered scholarships worth \$695 each for 20 young people from new and emerging communities to participate in the academy. Table 8 shows the ethnicity of the young people selected to participate.

The junior development academy was a 22-week program held from March to July 2010. The program was designed to ensure that players of 12 to 13 years of age received specialised coaching and development based on the new national curriculum of Football Federation Australia.

Training was held in the following locations:

- North - Buggerah Reserve (Alexander Avenue, Modbury North)
- South - Flinders University Sports Grounds (Sturt Road, Bedford Park)
- Central - Park B27 (Park Terrace, North Adelaide).

This academy is seen as a first step; the ultimate aim is to produce players who will be better prepared to become professional footballers at Hyundai A-League level and beyond.

No.	Ethnicity	Participants
1	Afghanis	3
2	Bhutanese	1
3	Congolese	1
4	Ethiopians	4
5	Liberians	4
6	Somali	4
7	Sudanese	3

Table 8. List of participants in the soccer academy by ethnicity

Highlights

The program provided excellent value, and all participants received specialised coaching from current and past Adelaide United players. They also received a Reds Academy playing strip, club merchandise and a membership for the 2010-11 season. Twenty young people were awarded a scholarship worth \$695 each. The aim of the scholarship program was to give equal opportunity to young people from disadvantaged families unable to pay the fee.

Women's football

Women and girls from new and emerging communities participate in sport for the same reasons as other people do. However, their participation is hindered by a number of factors, including lack of access and resources. To address these barriers, the MRCSA and Football Federation SA forged a partnership to further develop, promote and grow women's football among new and emerging communities. The Women's Football Program is designed to generate community awareness of female football by encouraging female participation within the sport at the grassroots and junior level.

Football Federation SA organised a program called 'Put a Team Together and Join Us' in March 2010. The program was held at South Terrace, Park 21 (opposite Annesley College on Greenhill Road). Seventeen young women participated in the program, which ran for about three months.

The program targeted young women of humanitarian background aged 12-30 years and was modified to cater for female participants. It was structured in a round-robin format, and although the emphasis was only on fun and enjoyment through maximum participation, three young women have already been integrated into mainstream women's soccer clubs.

Challenges

Young people from new and emerging communities are more likely to participate in sport in familiar and supportive environments, such as schools and ethnic organisations, than in unfamiliar environments, such as mainstream sporting clubs, associations and competitions.

There are fewer opportunities for young women from new and emerging communities to participate in sport due to the barriers they experience from within sporting environments and their own communities. These barriers can be based on cultural, religious and/or gender expectations of young women and their roles in their community, or on the requirements and physical environment of sport.

Other challenges are:

- lack of parental support
- lack of access to transport
- high cost of memberships, registration and uniforms
- perceived fear of racism and discrimination
- lack of knowledge about the structure of sport in Australia.

The way forward

Strategic development and policy change is required at the organisational level to create a more inclusive and responsive sport and recreational sector suitable for women's participation. There is a need to build the capacity of sporting associations, local governments, clubs and leisure centres to be more inclusive of girls and young women from new and emerging communities. This could be achieved by helping these organisations to develop culturally relevant sports strategies, policies, programs and resources.

Girls and young women need to be empowered to access sport and recreation options.



Arts and cultural development for young people

MRC Arts coordinates an arts and cultural development program supported by Arts SA and the Australia Council for the Arts, Adelaide Festival Centre Trust, Come Out Youth Festival and Adelaide Fringe Festival. The arts program works closely with young people and MRCSA community-programs teams to facilitate successful projects with the following aims:

- to encourage young people to participate in creative arts projects that foster artistic and organisational skills, leadership development and involvement in arts activity
- to support a sense of cultural identity
- to increase awareness of the arts industry as opportunity for personal and community activity and possible career pathways
- to encourage young people to work with other young people from diverse and emerging communities to promote harmony and social cohesion
- to promote these arts projects to the mainstream, and to give young people a chance to showcase their skills and their communities to the public
- to develop partnerships with arts organisations that support participation of youth from refugee backgrounds and so further promote the interests of refugee youth.

MRCSA cultural development programs involving young people during 2009-10 included *The magic waterhole*, 'UnderExposed', the Sudanese Youth Theatre, the African Cultural Show, the 'Come Out Festival' and 'Sudan in Concert'.

The Magic Waterhole

The Magic Waterhole theatre project continues to be presented at schools and community events. Comprising five young African actors, this cultural performance toured to Queensland, Port Augusta, and the Marion Cultural Centre, and presented a two-week season at the Adelaide Fringe Festival. *The Magic Waterhole* also played a highly successful five-day season at the Woodford Folk Festival in Queensland and was a guest production at the Brisbane City Council Refugee Day Festival in June 2010. Since being launched as part of the 'Come Out Festival', *The Magic Waterhole* has been performed in more than 30 schools and been seen by more than 5000 people - primarily family and youth audiences.

UnderXposed

The *UnderXposed* youth photographic exhibition was completed in June 2010. The exhibition promotes the settlement experiences of young people of refugee background, affirming their identity and illustrating their experiences as new Australians.

Forty-eight young people of refugee background from Adelaide and Mount Gambier-Limestone Coast took part in the project. In a number of skills-development workshops the participants were shown how to use digital cameras to record their lives through photography. This culminated in a 48-piece photographic exhibition with a full-colour catalogue. The exhibition opening was the official launch of 2010 SA Refugee Week at the Kerry Packer Gallery of the Hawke Centre. The exhibition was simultaneously launched at Mt Gambier TAFE. Part one of the exhibition, comprising 34 framed photographs, had earlier shown in the Adelaide Town Hall Gallery, the Adelaide Festival Centre Gallery and the MRC Hall.

The exhibition is booked to show at the SA Migration Museum Gallery, and during the 2011 Adelaide Fringe Festival the photographs will be digitally projected onto a giant public screen in Rundle Mall. It will also tour to Port Augusta as part of the *Desert Fringe*. It will have further public exposure in 2010-12 when the exhibition is promoted to metropolitan, regional and interstate galleries.

UnderXposed was coordinated by Andrew Hill from the University of South Australia School of Art, Architecture and Design.

Sudan Youth Theatre project

In 2010, MRC Arts worked closely with Sudanese young people to create the Sudan Youth Theatre project as part of our Jambo Africa Program. Ten Sudanese young people wrote and produced a comedy performance for SA Refugee Week. The group worked with the arts coordinator to script, rehearse and develop the original play titled *The faithful women* - a comedy. This 20-minute production was presented to a Sudanese youth audience and again as part of *Sudan: A Celebration* at Her Majesty's Theatre, Adelaide.

Building on the success of this first production, a larger group of 15 young people has started work on other theatrical productions, including a short play on child marriage. This production will work in partnership with the SA Writers Theatre Association, looking forward to the 2011 Adelaide Fringe Festival.

'Sudan: A Celebration'

Sudan: A Celebration was a joint venture between the MRC Arts and the Sudanese Community Association SA, as part of SA Refugee Week. More than 100 young people participated in the event as dancers, singers, actors and helpers, along with their adult counterparts. Many community rehearsals were held in the lead-up to this event.

African cultural shows

Four successful African cultural shows were presented at the SA Folk Centre. Workshops and rehearsals helped participants develop skills in event coordination, management and promotion. More than 15 young performers participated in each of these events. The performances attracted around 500 spectators.

Reconciliation project - 'Hand in Hand'

MRC Arts initiated a project working with the 'Come Out Festival' and the University of South Australia School of Art, Architecture and Design to present a new production for the 2011 Festival. This will feature young people from refugee communities working with Indigenous young people and performers. There have been several meetings with the Indigenous community to work on this project. A feature of this initiative is the use of visual and performance arts as a link between young people of refugee background and young Indigenous people in the spirit of understanding, cross-cultural exchange, engagement and reconciliation.

Arts programs foster creativity and skills development and contribute to cultural identity and cultural diversity. They enable young people to engage with diverse communities and with the general public, and provide young people with the opportunity to tell their stories.



Attachment

Youth Leaders Residential Forum

6-9 April 2010

Nunyara Conference Centre

5 Burnell Drive, Belair, SA

The Youth Leaders Residential Forum was assisted by the Government of South Australia through the Office for Youth SA and by the Australian Government through the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

Program Outline

Tuesday 6 April

12.00 noon	Assembly at MRCSA 59 King William Street Adelaide (participants to bring their own lunch)
1.00 pm	Leave for campsite
2.00 pm	Arrival and venue orientation Host (Nunyara CC) Settling in/room assignment
3.00 pm	Do's and don'ts for participants Camp leadership team Leadership teams coordination Ice-breaker activity
3.30 pm	Afternoon tea
4.00 pm	Sports activities Team 1 on duty Basketball SA Football Federation SA
6.00 pm	Dinner
7.30 pm	Quiz night Rosaria Sng
10.30 pm	Lights out

Wednesday 7 April

8.00 am	Breakfast
9.30 am	African drumming and dance Team 2 on duty
10.30 am	Morning tea
11.00 am	Guest speaker/workshop Keith Preston: Manager, Cultural Program, MRCSA
12.30 pm	Lunch
1.15 pm	Orienteering Rosaria Sng
2.30 pm	Team bonding session Team leaders
3.30 pm	Afternoon tea
4.00 pm	Guest speaker/workshop Team 3 on duty Paul Atem: Sudanese achiever
6.00 pm	Dinner
6.30 pm	Disco night
10.30 pm	Lights out

Thursday 8 April 2010

6.30 am	Bush walk Cynthia Caird
8.00 am	Breakfast
9.30 am	Guest speaker/workshop Team 4 on duty Nici Smith: DFEEST

10.30 am	Morning tea
11.15 am	Guest speaker/workshop Tamara Schwark, SAPOL
12.15 pm	Lunch
1.30 pm	Training & employment pathways Team 5 on duty Prue Hemming, Employment Consultant, MRCSA Leanne Gerekaroff, VET Liaison Officer and Advisor, TAFESA Nici Smith, Education & Communication Coordinator (DFEEST) Nedzac Hanic, Employment and Training Manager, MRCSA Rosaria Sng, Employment Consultant, Anglicare SA
2.30 pm	Guest speaker/workshop Kym Foster, Juma Abuyi, SAPOL
3.30 pm	Afternoon tea
4.00 pm	Guest speaker/workshop Christian Cifuentes, Legal Services Commission
6.00pm	Dinner
7.00 pm	Forum evaluation Camp mentors
8.00 pm	Cultural night presentation Guest speaker: The Hon. Grace Portolesi, MP, Minister for Youth Other guests: Eugenia Tsoulis OAM, MRCSA CEO Dianne Down, Manager, Nunyara Conference Centre
10.00 pm	Lights out

Youth Leadership Team

This group of trained youth leaders were selected to be team leaders at the forum. They provided one-on-one support to each team member, encouraged team work and ensured that all team members behaved appropriately and contributed actively to team efforts in the forum activities.

The youth leadership team members were:

- Larry Paye, Liberian community
- Rahim Ahmadi, Afghani community
- Chandra Subedi, Bhutanese community
- Matong Victor Ziko, Sudanese community
- Denish Dhungiana, Bhutanese community.

Forum Mentors

The forum mentors were:

- Rosaria Sng, NAYS Employment Case Worker, Anglicare SA
- Cynthia Caird, Manager, MRCSA Community Programs
- Bosco Opi, MRCSA Youth Development Coordinator & NAYS Case Manager

Recommendations

The following issues, needs and recommendations were identified by the young people who attended the forum:

- that young people continue to plan and implement MRCSA youth initiatives
- that access to relevant information and resources for young people from new and emerging communities be improved
- that funding continue for promotion of youth activities, including an annual youth forum
- that follow-up sessions be held mid-year for forum participants to report on individual achievements, updates on new youth initiatives, and any other developments.

Feedback

Young people were invited to write down their reflections on their experiences while at the forum, and a number of them sent in their thoughts:

'... the camp was the first one I have ever been to. It gave me a great experience as it was made up of different sessions and participants. The guest speakers were awesome, and I learnt a

lot from all the things they told us. I think, it's gonna help me a lot in the future. Food and accommodation were all good considering that we didn't pay any fee for anything. I hope there will be more people next time. The camp was great, and I'm glad I was part of it and also thank the organisers.'

'It was fun because everyone had their own room. So many people came from different places and gave us lots of information. It was good that MRC brought them in to provide us with information that we needed to develop ourselves.'

'It would be great to spread the speakers because Thursday was a very busy day. Can MRC create a Facebook group for any information update?'

'It rocked with lots of learning and fun!'

'Other participants and leaders were nice!'

'I like the way we respected each other.'

'The 2010 camp was much fun, and we did a lot of activities which were enjoyable, but it was too short and we could have stayed longer. I met a lot of friends, and I am looking forward to next year's camp!'



Abbreviations and acronyms

ACE	Adult Community Education
AFL	Australian Football League
CALD	Culturally and linguistically diverse
DFEEST	Department of Education, Employment, Further Training, Science and Technology
ESL	English as a Second Language
FaHCSIA	Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
FC	Football club
GTO	Group Training Organisation
MRC	Migrant Resource Centre
MRCSA	Migrant Resource Centre of South Australia
MYLSA	Multicultural Youth Link South Australia
NAYS	Newly Arrived Youth Services
OHS&W	Occupational health, safety and welfare
SA	South Australia
SANFL	South Australia National Football League
SAPOL	South Australia Police
TAFE	Technical and Further Education
UNYA	United Nations Youth Association

