

Empowering Refugees – Fairfield Hospital Career Pathway Program

Mrs Robyn El-Khair – Fairfield Consumer Participation Manager

Background



Fairfield has a large number of newly arrived migrants, humanitarian entrants and refugees.



Support is needed for this community to achieve self-sufficiency through education and job training to secure employment or continue their professional careers in South Western Sydney.

Objective

To create a tailored and structured career pathways for refugees:

- who are unemployed and have medical skills, experience or an interest in commencing a career in health.
- to gain entry level skills and practical experience to equip them to commence a career in the health sector.
- to provide opportunity for candidates to further proceed qualifications.

Method

- 1 Collaboration between CORE Community Services, TAFE NSW, and South Western Sydney Local Health District.
- 2 Participants who meet the eligibility requirements were enrolled in short and tailored skill set courses delivered by TAFE NSW in 2021.
- 3 Participants were provided the opportunity to undertake practical work experience at participating South Western Sydney hospitals and health facilities.

Results



232 expressions of interest were received from across Sydney and other regional towns.



30 students were selected to commence Business Administration training.



27 students started Nursing assistant / Wards person training, and



15 in a non-accredited CALD Vocational Language (Health) as a preparatory course for hospital assistance.



Seven graduates successfully secured positions as COVID screeners.



Four participants work at Fairfield Hospital, and three at other health facilities.



Image 1. Two graduates from the refugee pathway, employed within SWSLHD 2023.

Conclusion

The partners involved in this project are committed to its success, and it is now managed by SWSLHD CEWD for further enhancement.

This initiative showcased how a successful collaboration can lead to multi-layered project to address local community issues for refugees.

Image 2. Refugee pathway students as COVID screeners

