



ASeTTS Newsletter

ASeTTS

Assisting Torture
and Trauma Survivors

March 2007

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Association for Services to Torture and Trauma Survivors

ASeTTS Enrichment Fund Launch



In Between - Adam Janali

Janet Holmes à Court launched the Enrichment Fund by hosting a dinner at her home in Subiaco on 28 February 2007. The Enrichment Fund is set up to allow selected refugees who are unable to afford training or educational pursuits on their own, the opportunity to do so.

Together with Heirisson Rotary Club, ASeTTS is hoping to raise \$100,000 to subsidise the fees and/or living expenses of carefully selected students. Hopefully this will enable the students not to have work as much and be able to concentrate more fully on their studies.

Home, a dinner/theatre company interviewed over 100 refugees to gain an understanding of their lives; where they came from and what they experienced, and then acted out five different scenes in between five courses, incorporating 'real life' situations. Samer, Samira, Henock and Rhihad attended on behalf of ASeTTS and Udo Schütze (Board Member) and his wife attended on behalf of Heirisson Rotary. Heirisson Rotary will be assisting in the selection

of the successful recipients of the fund.

The evening was very well received with some of the guests very moved by the refugee stories. Udo presented Janet Holmes à Court with a framed Adam Janali print (the print had been very generously provided to us by Adam Janali, free of charge), as a thank you for hosting the evening.

The follow up for the fundraising will happen shortly and hopefully the \$100,000 target will be reached and possibly exceeded.

ASeTTS Special Training Event

**Enabling Culturally Diverse
Groups To Be More
Effective**

With Dr Christine Hogan

**Monday 2 April
Time: 9.00am-4.30pm
Cost: \$198.00 (GST inclusive)**

**See flyer inside or go to
www.asetts.org.au**

Norma's Notes



Deputy Director Sharon McFarlane and Director Norma Josephs with the Award and Certificate.

ASeTTS was very proud and honoured to receive the 2007 Western Australian Multicultural Community Service Award along with Ishaar. The award was presented by the Hon Ljiljanna Ravlick MLC, Minister for Multicultural Interests and Citizenship on the 14th of March 2007, for excellence and innovation in advancing and promoting multiculturalism, inclusiveness and participation, and improving access to services and promoting equity for minority communities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all ASeTTS staff, interpreters and volunteers for all their hard work and effort. It is the day to day work with our clients, often going that extra mile that has such a positive impact and this was recognised through this award.

I know I speak on behalf of each staff member when I say that it is an absolute privilege to work with survivors of torture and trauma. It deepens our understanding of humanity, hope and resilience and although very tough, makes us better people.

The award proceeds will go into ASeTTS Enrichment Fund.

Norma Josephs

Community Partners Programme Project - Aged Care

The Association for Services to Torture and Trauma Survivors (ASeTTS) and the Multicultural Aged Care Service W.A. (MACSWA) are working in partnership, supported by funding from the Australian Government under the Community Partners Programme Initiative (CPP) for the period July 2006 – June 2007.

Project Aims:

- To provide information, training and consultancy to aged care providers and health professionals to raise awareness about working across cultures, recognising and managing symptoms of trauma in older people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds.
- To raise awareness of, and enhance access to aged care services amongst older people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities who have experienced trauma.

The training modules are now complete and ready to be presented to a range of aged care service providers and aged care assessment teams. Dates for the free training are planned between March and May 2007.

The Community Information Sessions are also underway and will be taking place with a number of community groups (both well established and new and emerging) until May 2007.

For further information regarding the service providers training or community information sessions contact Allison Barr: 9227 2700.

Interfaith Harmony Award

ASeTTS staff member Sahba Saberi recently received an Interfaith Harmony Award. The award was presented to Sahba in recognition of her outstanding work with African and Afghan youth and children through a values education program, as well as her counselling work with migrants and refugees in Western Australia.

The Interfaith Harmony Celebration was held on Wednesday, 14th March 2007 in the Government House Ballroom. The evening, organised by the Baha'i Community of Western Australia, was a wonderful celebration of multicultural entertainment, with contributions from representatives of various faiths. Awards were presented to various individuals in WA, who have promoted and encouraged the principle of religious freedom.

Congratulations Sahba from everyone at ASeTTS.



Sahba with her Award.



NAYSS

NAYSS stands for 'Newly Arrived Youth Support Service'. It is a program funded for youth aged between the ages of 12 to 21 who are homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless and who have entered Australia on humanitarian grounds. The NAYSS program at ASeTTS is in full swing.

We are in the final stages of preparing for the Vacation Program 2007, which will be held from the 10th-20th April 2007. This vacation program will include a series of five workshops with topics ranging from contemporary and Indigenous Australian culture, to employment opportunities. These workshops will include team-building activities, excursions to Yanchep National Park and the Duxton Hotel and guest speakers from different organizations in Perth that offer opportunities and support for young people. The vacation program will culminate with a three day camp in Karridale which is in the South Western region of Australia. The vacation program will involve 30 clients who have accessed the NAYSS program.

NAYSS continues to provide individual support to young people in need, as well as running workshops. In the first school term NAYSS will be running workshops at Mirrabooka High School. The school workshops are intended to build self-esteem and identity, build communication skills and help find a sense of future for young people who come from a torture and trauma background.

Other exciting things coming up this month in the NAYSS program are free cooking classes for young males. We are also currently looking at the possibilities of starting a youth group at ASeTTS.

Christian Cavaniglia/Hilda Carere

ASeTTS Multicultural Men's Group

The ASeTTS Multicultural Men's Group continues to provide social support services to men from many different cultural backgrounds. Since the Christmas break the men have participated in a variety of activities including replanting ASeTTS' vegetable garden, although a series of hot summer days managed to burn all but a few of the new seedlings!! The men also learnt how to use the street directory, visited the Fairmont ten pin bowling centre, and had a game

of cricket and a BBQ on the South Perth foreshore. Coming events include a 'Get to know Perth City Centre activity' followed by lunch at the Barrack Street Indian restaurant, music sessions, multicultural cooking, and a discovery trip to Fremantle.

The men continue to report that they find the group very therapeutic. It allows them to interact positively with other men whilst sharing information, laughter and good food.

Lastly, I will no longer be facilitating this group, and Issihaka will be taking over the reins as of the 1st of March 2007. Issihaka brings with him a strong knowledge of group work as well as new ideas and energy. On my behalf I would like to thank all the men who have participated in the group since its inception in mid 2004. I have many fond memories and some fantastic recipe secrets. Thank you.

Christian Cavaniglia

Project Connect Community Coaching Program. The Community Coaching aspect of the program involves volunteers assisting survivors of torture and trauma, and their families to establish a new life in Perth by offering support in understanding and accessing the new systems, language and environment that people find themselves in. Volunteers receive full training, ongoing supervision and support whilst in the program. Our volunteers do a fantastic job in supporting our clients and the agency generally.

Contact Jan Mantell: 9227 2720.

Connect 2 Youth Program is an exciting program for young people from 16 to 25 years old, from both refugee and non-refugee backgrounds. Young people who have a strong interest in human rights, the refugee experience and interacting with other young people are invited to apply. The program provides a platform to discuss relevant social issues, whilst developing skills in leadership and public speaking, in a safe and fun environment. Pilot programs are being conducted in schools and at ASeTTS. **Contact: Issihaka Toure 9227 2740 or Sahba Saberi 9227 2735.**

For a complete list of ASeTTS programs and services go to www.asetts.org.au

Our new staff...



Top left to right: Natalie Long, Virginia Mangava, Sahba Saberi - Trauma Counsellors/Advocates, Renay Grech, Manager, Clinical Services, Issihaka Toure, Community and Youth Liaison worker .

Bottom left to right: Kirsten Webster, Executive Assistant, Anju Sivarajah, Community Development Worker, Hilda Carere, Youth Worker, Jean-Paul Willems, Personal Support Programme Manager, Gary Hurst Strength to Strength Coordinator.

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