Friday, 6 May 2016

**NSW COMMUNITY CLUBS RESPOND TO CALL FOR REFUGEE HELP**

Registered clubs in Greater Western Sydney have joined the NSW Government’s call to support incoming Syrian and Iraqi refugees, offering training, mentoring and job opportunities throughout their network for those on a special humanitarian visa.

Peter Shergold, the NSW Coordinator-General for Refugee Resettlement, said ClubsNSW was to be commended for its new pilot program which would provide up to 30 long-term employment opportunities at clubs in Greater Western Sydney.

In addition, ClubsNSW would contribute $50,000 towards the establishment of a support program to assist refugees to become ‘job ready’.

“ClubsNSW has shown true leadership by stepping up to the challenge with jobs, training and support for refugees coming here to NSW,” said Prof. Shergold.

“These are people, fleeing unimaginable horrors in the Middle East, who have so much to contribute but will need some basic assistance to ensure the significant experience and abilities they bring with them can be recognised here in Australia.”

ClubsNSW issued a statement to say that the organisation valued the work of the NSW Coordinator-General and the NSW Premier to settle the new refugees and had a proud history of social inclusion, demonstrated by members such as DOOLEYS Lidcombe Catholic Club, which partners with service providers that specialise in building ‘employment pathways’ for refugees and new migrants.

Their programs aim to assist refugees and new migrants to become ‘job ready’ for the Australian workplace by helping to develop important employment skills such as interview technique and providing opportunities for work placement.

“The club industry is committed to working with the NSW Government to provide assistance and support for refugees to become job ready – an important step that will benefit not only these refugees, but the Greater Western Sydney community as a whole,” said Clubs NSW CEO Anthony Ball.

“It’s great to see clubs play a part and we look forward to working in partnership with the NSW Government on this initiative.”

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