

Maria Hayward: AUT Centre for Refugee Education

- Part of School of Languages in the Faculty of Applied Humanities, AUT
- Located within the Mangere Reception Centre complex
- Six intakes of quota refugees per year
- Intakes remain at the Centre for 6 weeks

Programmes

- There is an educational programme for every refugee
- Language and orientation classes run from 9-3pm Monday to Friday
- Bilingual support workers are employed every intake
- We provide dictionaries, stationery and a 'departure kit'

Programmes

- Early Childhood Education
- Primary School Programme
- Secondary school Programme
- Adult Education
- Special Needs Education

- Volunteer Tutor Scheme

Programmes

The Centre for Refugee Education aims to

- ✓ provide programmes that celebrate the diversity of each student's culture
- ✓ begin to uncover individual abilities
- ✓ identify areas of greatest need

The Refugee Resettlement Experience

- Trauma
- Loss
- Reduced emotional capacity for survival
- Dislocation from culture and tradition
- Lack of preparation and possibly literacy
- Lack of trust
- Financial strain

- New language, culture, education system
- Family roles change

Persons with refugee backgrounds

may have experienced:

- War
- Loss of family and friends
- Extreme deprivation (poverty & lack of health care)
- Repression & harassment
- Displacement
- Rape or sexual assault

Refugees may have experienced

- Personal injury
- Deprivation of education and the opportunity to play
- Being forced to join armies or militias
- Torture
- Separation from family
- Extreme fear

Enhancing the resettlement experience

Our staff seek to:

- Provide a 'safe' environment
- Provide quality programmes
- Understand refugee needs, backgrounds and trauma
- Celebrate all refugee cultures
- Operate in a holistic way caring for a range of needs within a family context

Staff support students to build:

- A sense of trust and belonging
- Their self esteem
- A positive sense of identity, integrating both their past experiences and culture with that of their new life in NZ
- A positive sense of their future

Staff aim to:

- Monitor student needs
- Acknowledge feelings and be available for support or refer to professionals

They also need to:

- Look after themselves
support structures are in place for staff

Training and professional development

Regular PD to ensure staff:

- Understand the impact of both the refugee and the resettlement experience
- Understand the issues on families and explore strategies for supporting them
- Are aware of the implications for learning
- Maintain a high standard of teaching and programme development