



MDA

Multicultural Development
Association



MDA Employment Connect

A Get Set for Work Program for young people from a refugee and migrant background

Get Set For Work

The Get Set for Work program is a **Queensland government** initiative to engage young people who have left school early (i.e. before completing Year 12) or are at risk of doing so. It is a **work readiness program** delivered in a community setting aiming to create transition pathways for these young people towards getting a job, continuing with other education or training, or returning to school.

The program operates as a **'safety net'** after other, more mainstream learning options have been explored unsuccessfully and the young person remains determined to leave school and is unlikely to be able to find employment without assistance.

Queensland laws require every young person past the compulsory school age (i.e. after completing Year 10 or having turned 16) to **'earn or learn'** until they turn 17. This means that, unless they are in full-time employment, they need to participate in education or training until they gain a Queensland Certificate of Education or a Certificate III vocational qualification. This is known as the **'compulsory participation phase'**.

The Get Set for Work program is a Departmental Employment Skills Development Program and as such is an **'eligible option'** for young people to meet their compulsory participation obligations. Young people who successfully complete the Get

Set for Work program gain **two credit points** towards their Queensland Certificate of Education.

The Get Set for Work program is primarily targeted at 15- to 17-year-olds but also services older early school leavers **up to 19 years of age**.

MDA Employment Connect

MDA Employment Connect is a Get Set for Work program working specifically with young people **from a refugee and migrant background** between the ages of 15 and 19 who are disengaged, or at risk of disengaging, from school or other vocational activities. The program is delivered as a **flexible mix** of hands-on group activities, informal training and individual casework.

The program helps young people build self-esteem and confidence and provides them with information on training and work opportunities in their individual areas of interest. Program activities focus on:

- **Lifeskills Development** (incl. core settlement lifeskills relating to education and employment for young people)
- **Employability Skills Development** (i.e. the basic underpinning skills and personal attributes all employers look for in their employees)
- **Job Preparation Skills Training** (incl. career pathway exploration, job search techniques, resume writing and interview skills practice)
- **Hope and Confidence Building Activities** (incl. social and recreational activities)

The program is **ten weeks** long with four days per week of activities from 9 am to 4 pm. It is delivered from MDA's head office at 512 Stanley St, South Brisbane, close to the Mater Hill bus station and Southbank train station. **Upcoming intakes** are scheduled as follows:

- Monday, 12 July Friday – 17 September 2010 (= term 3)
- Monday, 4 October – Friday, 10 December 2010 (= term 4)

There are up to 10 participants in each intake. The program is coordinated by a full-time Employment and Lifeskills Development Trainer and a part-time Youth Worker.

Participants in the MDA Employment Connect program will **make new friends**, explore career pathways and training opportunities, get help with writing a resume and learn how to look and apply for work. Each intake group will go on industry site visits, visit vocational training centres and simply engage in **fun activities**, such as barbecuing, swimming, canoeing and more. Participants will also have individual access to the Youth Worker for one-on-one support and will receive post participation support for up to three months when they go on to further training, start work or continue looking for work.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for participation in the MDA Employment Connect program you must:

- be between 15 and 19 years old;
- come from a refugee or migrant background;
- live in one of Brisbane's southern suburbs; and
- have left school early (i.e. before completing Year 12) or be at risk of disengaging from mainstream education.

Further eligibility criteria may apply and will be assessed on an individual basis.

Multicultural Development Association

The Multicultural Development Association Inc. (MDA) is a not-for-profit community organisation that was established in May 1998. MDA is governed by a volunteer Board of Management with representation of people from a variety of cultural and professional backgrounds. MDA promotes an **inclusive, just and multicultural society** and acts as a strategic mechanism for the empowerment of people from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

MDA's core business is **assisting refugees and migrants** throughout their settlement period in Australia and ensuring that their views and needs are represented and heard at all levels of society. Key MDA strategies include settlement services, community development and events, systems advocacy, employment and training, and a range of other service delivery activities.

For more information on MDA, please visit our website at www.mdainc.org.au.

Contact Details

For further information, please contact us on the following details:

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Supported by

