

10 November 2017

## **SydWest Driving New Job Opportunities for Job-seekers in Blacktown**

*The Blacktown Employment Accelerator is a pilot event aiming to drive new job opportunities for multicultural job-seekers of the Blacktown area.*

**SydWest Multicultural Services has partnered with SSI-Ability Links and Blacktown City Council to undertake a pilot project aimed at improving economic outcomes for job seekers from refugee and migrant backgrounds, as well as people with disability in the Blacktown LGA.**

Leaders from the business community have been recruited to participate in this event, which aims to accelerate employment outcomes in the local area. Our corporate partners include Bolton Clarke, BE Campbell Pty Ltd, Macarthur Aged Care, Ridley, Hire Up, Thrive Refugee Enterprise, Reach for Training, Max Solutions and Parramatta College.

This event will assist multicultural job-seekers in finding sustainable employment opportunities and they will get a chance to expand their networks and increase their employability chances.

The event will be held at **Blacktown City Council on Friday 17 November from 9 – 11:30am** in the Nirimba Room.

The event will include presentations from some of our corporate partners, as well as Blacktown City Council's Cllr Julie Griffiths, Sean Willenberg of the NSW Business Chamber and Dom Orlando of AbilityLinks.

SydWest Multicultural Services CEO, Elfa Moraitakis is encouraging people of all backgrounds to join in this unique initiative:

*We are looking forward to building sustainable corporate partnerships for the benefit of everyone in Blacktown – whether you are a resident job-seeker or an employer in the region – this event will showcase the wealth of experience and expertise on our doorstep and accelerate the connections necessary for successful employee recruitment.*

SSI CEO, Violet Roumeliotis notes the importance of employment to the settlement process:

*“Finding employment is not only one of the highest priorities but also one of the biggest hurdles during the settlement process for refugees and migrants”, said SSI CEO Violet Roumeliotis. “However, the barriers to achieve sustainable employment*

*grow exponentially for those living with a disability, who are usually at the most vulnerable spectrum of the newly-arrived community.”*

*“At SSI we know this and this is why, besides delivering the Ability Links NSW program, we’ve developed innovative initiatives that ensure the social and economic participation of people with disability in all aspects of our community, such as the EmployAbility that offers tailored career pathways or IgniteAbility, which supports them to start their own businesses.”*

SydWest Multicultural Services is the largest and most diverse community services organisation in the Western Sydney region. Established more than 33 years ago, SydWest provides a range of services to culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) individuals and communities services to assist with settling and living productive and independent lives in the community.

**STATEMENT ENDS /**

For further information contact Vikki Hine, Business Development & Communications Manager, SydWest Multicultural Services on [vikki.hine@sydwestms.org.au](mailto:vikki.hine@sydwestms.org.au) or 9621 6633.