



English language students learn surf safety

Forty students from ACL colleges toured North Steyne Surf Life Saving Club today (Tuesday 5 June) as part of Surf Life Saving's program 'On the Same Wave'.

The students – who hail from countries such as China, Afghanistan, Burma, Vietnam, Turkey, Cambodia, Iraq, Indonesia and Lebanon – are either refugees or migrants currently learning English in ACL's Auburn and Fairfield college youth classes.

ACL Group Managing Director Helen Zimmerman said working with North Steyne Surf Life Saving Club provided an opportunity for the students to gain an understanding of surf safety onsite at the beach and at a follow-up presentation by club volunteers at ACL's Fairfield and Auburn colleges later in the week.

"For most of our students this was a new experience to tour a surf club and familiarise themselves with beach and surf safety, as well as the important role that surf life saving clubs play in making our beaches safe," Ms Zimmerman said.

"It was also an opportunity for our students to discover a very recognisable aspect of popular Australian culture and sporting activity," she said.

ACL is the largest provider of high quality English language education in Australia and has been working since 1998 to educate and settle newly arrived migrants and refugees as part of the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP).

"ACL works actively to assist in rebuilding the lives of newly arrived migrants and refugees and provides support and skills for them to contribute to the economy and community of Australia," Ms Zimmerman said.

Surf Life Saving NSW Diversity Manager Suzie Stollznow said Surf Life Saving NSW was keen to work with groups such as ACL to ensure that people newly arrived in Australia can learn how to enjoy the surf in a safe environment.

"Surf Life Saving NSW has been running activities for some time and this was a great new step to hand over the know-how to individual clubs," she said.

"North Steyne Surf Life Saving Club is a very culturally diverse club and is a great ambassador for the 'On the Same Wave' program."

The 'On the Same Wave' program, which began last summer, aims to achieve greater harmony between all beach users, increase surf awareness and promote a culture that the beach is there for all to share.

About ACL's youth classes

ACL's youth classes, which originally started as a pilot program, target 18- to 25-year old students with varying levels of English language proficiency. Apart from learning English, these classes identify employment skills and awareness; develop career direction; and assist with job searching skills and awareness.

A career counsellor also works with the students in an environment of learning English, developing job seeking skills and exposure to the Australian way of life through community excursions and sporting activities.

About ACL

AMEP

ACL is the largest provider of high quality English language education in Australia and has been working since 1998 to educate and settle newly arrived migrants and refugees as part of the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP).

The AMEP is the only language program of its kind in the world, and is hailed internationally for its contribution towards the successful settlement of migrants and refugees.

ACL has AMEP colleges at Auburn, Cabramatta, Fairfield, Parramatta and in Adelaide, South Australia; and consortium partners delivering the AMEP at Blacktown, Ermington, Liverpool and Campbelltown.

IHSS

ACL helps to settle newly-arrived refugees in the country through the Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy (IHSS), also a Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) funded program.

The IHSS is designed to help humanitarian entrants rebuild their lives in Australia by providing them with support designed to meet their initial settlement needs. Emphasis is placed on sensitivity to cultural differences and minimum intrusion into entrants' lives. A case-management approach is provided to ensure that the special needs of humanitarian entrants are identified and addressed promptly by matching them with settlement services that meet their particular circumstances.

The IHSS helps entrants gain access to mainstream services such as Centrelink, Medicare, banks, general and specialist health and medical services, education, training and employment, as well as links to the community.

For further information, contact Annette Madjarian, ACL Media and Promotions Manager on 9025 4746 or 0412 554 872 or Vincent Massey, ACL Media and Promotions Officer on 9025 4744 or 0411 446 884

Website: www.acl.edu.au