

## MEDIA RELEASE

29 May 2008

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### ACL students discover local government first hand

Students from ACL College Parramatta have discovered first hand the workings of local government by recently participating in one of Holroyd Council's community education programs.

ACL is the largest provider of high quality English language education in Australia and has been delivering the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) funded by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) since 1998. The AMEP provides English language and settlement to migrants and refugees settling in Australia.

ACL Government Programs General Manager Michael Cox said that Holroyd's "Getting to Know Your Local Council" program provided ACL students the opportunity to discover how local government connects with local communities and promotes social inclusion.

"Council conducts two of these programs each year which aim to inform local ethnic communities about the roles and responsibilities of local government," Mr Cox said.

"The program will equip our AMEP students with knowledge about the local community and encourage them to become actively involved in civic life."

The students attended three sessions throughout May as part of the program.

The first session covered the evolution and principles of Australian democracy and the three tiers of government; a mock council election including electing the mayor, conducting a council meeting and debating an issue such as a development application. The second session looked at environmental (water conservation, waste disposal) and planning services.

Library facilities (how to join and use facilities including the toy library) and community services (including youth and children's services and family day care) were addressed at the third session.

At the final session (Tuesday 27 May) in Council's Chambers, Holroyd City Mayor Cr John Brodie thanked the ACL students for their participation and presented them with certificates.

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