



Upcoming Harmony Day to celebrate migrant and refugee success

ACL, the largest provider of high quality English language education in Australia, will celebrate its upcoming Harmony Day event recognising the successful integration of migrants and refugees in our community.

ACL Group Managing Director Helen Zimmerman said Harmony Day, on Wednesday 21 March, encouraged Australians to say no to racism and to celebrate Australia's achievements as a multicultural society.

ACL has been working since 1998 to educate and settle newly arrived migrants and refugees as part of the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP).

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

Ms Zimmerman said more than 2,000 ACL students and their families are expected to attend the Harmony Day event and enjoy a range of entertainment, including a special appearance by world champion boxer Kostya Tszyu.

"Many migrants and refugees who come to Australia learn the English language and are helped to settle in and make a success in the community through the services of ACL," Ms Zimmerman said.

"Not only do these migrants and refugees learn the English language, they also learn to integrate into Australian society and contribute to the economy."

ACL works actively to assist in rebuilding these people's lives and provides support and skills for them to contribute to the economy and community of Australia.

One such refugee is Milenko Popadic who came to Australia from war-torn Bosnia in 1998 with his family and very little else, including no English.

Through ACL Milenko and his family learnt English, discovered the Australian way of life and went on to further studies which resulted in full-time employment.

Studying at ACL helped Milenko to later enrol at TAFE in computing, IT and business skills.

In a bid to give back to the community, Milenko now works as ACL's Government Program Information Co-ordinator based at the ACL Auburn College while his wife Vesna also works at the college as an Administrative Officer.

Through their triumph, Milenko and Vesna's son is studying IT at university and has just entered the workforce in his chosen field.

Harmony Day – to be held at Bicentennial Park, Homebush – is an event for ACL students.

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For further information, contact Annette Madjarian, Media and Promotions Manager, ACL Pty Ltd, on 9025 4746 or 0412 554 872.