

the GOOD STARTS

A RESEARCH PROJECT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE FROM REFUGEE BACKGROUNDS



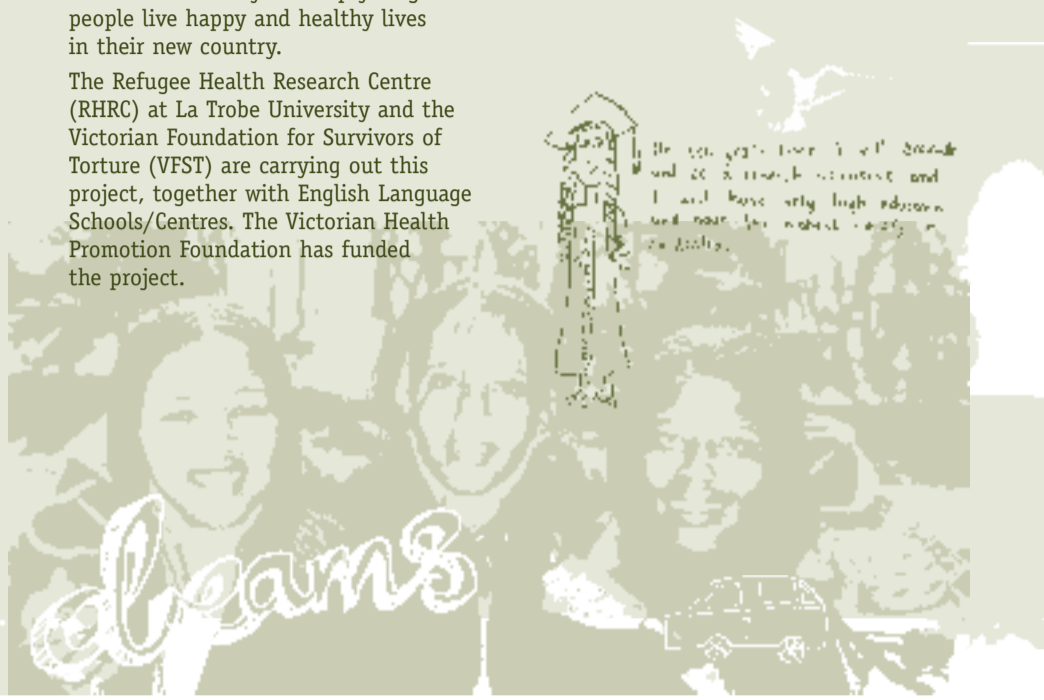
WHAT IS THIS PROJECT ABOUT?

This project is about what helps young people who have recently arrived in Australia make a good start. Making a home in a new country is difficult for everyone. For young people this can be especially difficult because they leave behind their friends, family and homeland. We do not know enough about the best ways to help young people live happy and healthy lives in their new country.

The Refugee Health Research Centre (RHRC) at La Trobe University and the Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture (VFST) are carrying out this project, together with English Language Schools/Centres. The Victorian Health Promotion Foundation has funded the project.

WHO WILL PARTICIPATE?

We will invite about 200 young people aged between 12 to 18 years to participate in the project. Young people will be invited through English Language Schools/Centres (ELS/ELC) and community groups. The families of the young people will first be asked for permission to allow their children to participate.



WHAT WILL THE PROJECT INVOLVE?

This project will be carried out over five years beginning in 2004 and ending in 2008. The first part of the project will take place in the classrooms of English Language Centres or at community groups. Young people will be asked to provide information about their life in Australia and about the things they enjoy doing at school and in their community. The project will consist of activities for young people including drawing pictures and taking photographs of the places they live and the people they are close to. Young people will also be asked to tell us about the kind of future they would like to have and how they can achieve their goals.

We will contact the young people in the project after they leave the ELS/ELC and go on to mainstream school or the workforce, for the second part of the project. We will keep in contact with these young people and once a year they will be invited to tell us about their experiences at school or university, or in the workforce. This will give us a better understanding of the issues young people face during their first five years in Australia and what helps them and their families settle over time.

WHAT WILL WE DO WITH THE INFORMATION?

At the end of this study, young people who participated will have a journal with their experiences of their first five years in Australia. This will include photographs that they have taken and stories and drawings of their experiences. Young people can keep this journal as a record of their settlement in Australia.

Some of the information will be used by schools to assist young people with their transitions into mainstream schools. Some of the information will help us design better programs for refugee youth. The information collected will help us understand the needs of young people in relation to education, employment and community connections.



DO YOU WANT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT?

For more information, or if you have any questions you can contact:

Christine Bakopanos Refugee Health Research Centre
A LaTrobe University/VFST Partnership
Telephone 9389 8946
Facsimile 9387 0828
Email bakopanosc@survivorsvic.org.au

THIS STUDY HAS BEEN APPROVED BY:

- La Trobe University, Human Ethics
Telephone 9479 1443
- Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture, Ethics
Telephone 9388 0022
- Department of Education & Training, Research Branch
Telephone 9637 2349
- The University of Melbourne, Human Research Ethics
Telephone 8344 7507

If you have any concerns about this study you may call any of the Ethics Committees listed above.

To find out more about the VFST visit our website at www.survivorsvic.org.au To find out more about the RHRC visit www.latrobe.edu.au/rhrc

ENGLISH

BROCHURE & GOOD STARTS LOGO designland 0408 056 150
PHOTOGRAPHY Beverly Barrett/Mennonite Central Committee, J. Graber/Church World Service and Steven Langdon (for more information visit www.travelsinabeautifulworld.com)

