



Multicultural
NSW

Refugee Youth Policy Initiative

TOGETHER WE
thrive



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OUR PURPOSE

TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN A COHESIVE
AND HARMONIOUS MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY
THAT ENRICHES THE LIVES OF ALL THE
PEOPLE IN NSW

OUR VISION

A STRONGER NSW: SOCIAL, CULTURAL
AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY THROUGH
CULTURAL DIVERSITY

OUR PRINCIPLES FOR ACTION

WE ARE DRIVEN BY THREE KEY PRINCIPLES:

ENGAGE WITH ALL SECTIONS OF SOCIETY AND
BREAK DOWN BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION

ENABLE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO SERVICES
AND PROGRAMS

ENRICH SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CAPACITY
THROUGH CULTURAL DIVERSITY
AS AN ASSET OF OUR STATE





A key focus for the Coordinator General has been to lead the NSW Government in engaging with stakeholders and various sectors of the community to better understand:

- the barriers to successful settlement
- what support various stakeholders already provide refugees
- opportunities to improve current provision
- opportunities to work together to improve settlement outcomes.



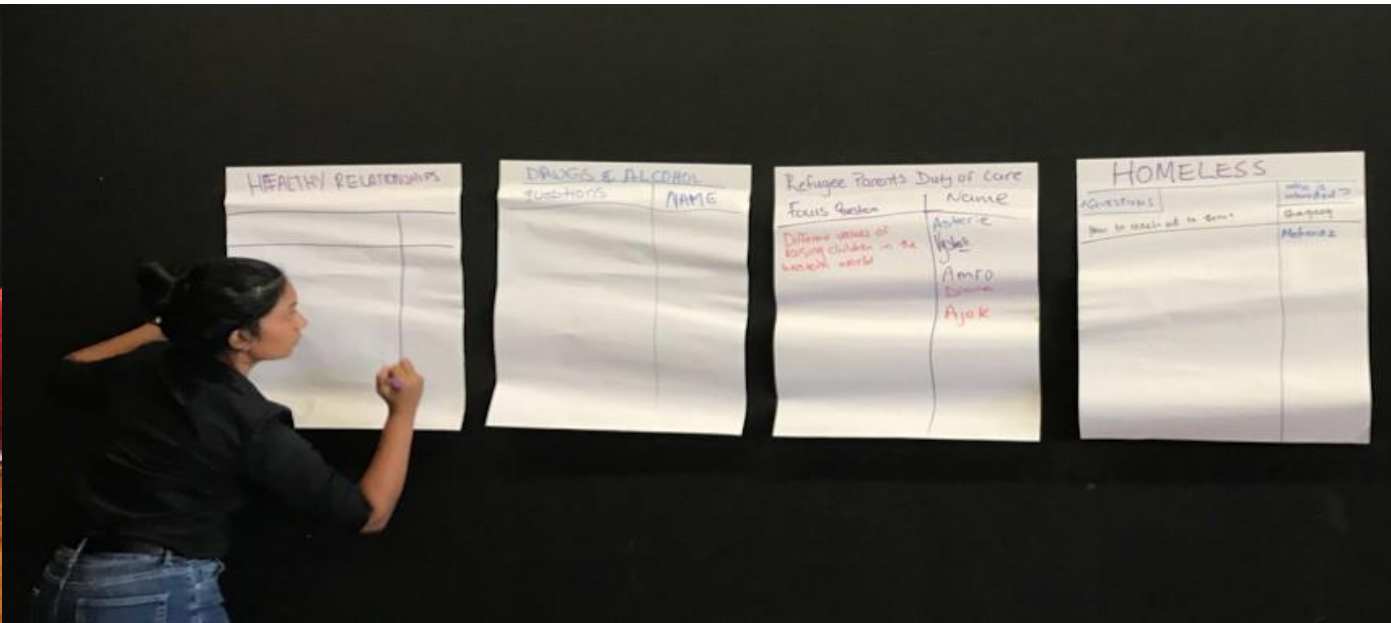
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Establishment of the **Joint Partnership Working Group Youth Sub-group**

Objectives set to embark on a person centred design process to build the capacity of young people and NSW Government

Engagement phase of the Initiative

- Consultations conducted by the NSW Advocate for Children and Young People
- ***RY Voice: Postcards to the Premier*** Research Partnership with Western Sydney University and Youth Peer Researchers



Refugee Parents Duty of Care	
Focus Question	Name
Different values of raising children in the western world	Asterie
	Yusuf
	Amro
	Diana
	Ajok

HOMELESS	
QUESTIONS	who is interested?
How to reach out to them?	Shaqeq
	Mehnaz



Western Sydney University research participants

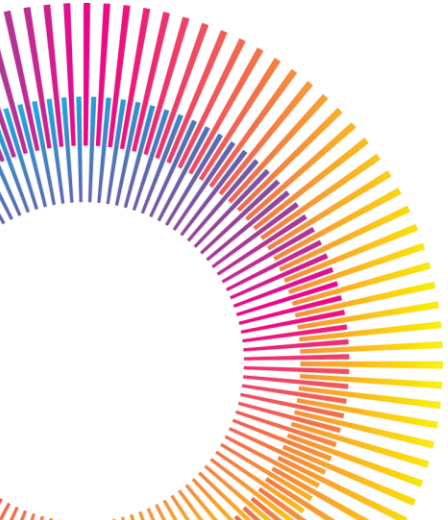
338 young people took part in interviews and focus groups across metropolitan and regional NSW. They were residing in Wagga Wagga, Coffs Harbour, Armidale, Illawarra, Newcastle and Sydney.

Young people had come to Australia from a wide range of countries. Some had been in Australia for **less than 12 months and some more than 10 years.**

NSW Advocate for Children and Young People consultations

176 young people aged between 12 and 24 years took part in 36 focus group style consultations. They were residing in Sydney, South West Sydney, North West Sydney, Newcastle, Coffs Harbour and Wollongong.

Young people had come to Australia from a wide range of countries including **Iraq, Syria, Iran, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Uganda, Myanmar, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cambodia, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Lebanon.** Just under one-third of these young people had been in Australia for less than 12 months.







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JPWG youth sub-group:

- What exists/ what works well

NSW Government Customer Service Policy Lab:

- Designing 'insights' from the WSU and NSW ACYP research
- Developing prioritization criteria

Sydney Policy Lab:

- Training for Youth Peer Researchers, policy makers and community in communication techniques



Lessons learned

- NSW Government agencies are searching for methodologies and opportunities to embed the lived experience in policy design and implementation
 - It is equally important to build the capacity of service providers and governments as young people
 - A mindset and communication style change is needed to genuinely engage and foster collaboration between young people and policy makers
 - Creating opportunities for young people to contribute in the policy making process enables a broader range of opportunities and outcomes
 - A peer research model is beneficial to reach usually unheard voices, however time is needed
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