



## MDA's Get Set for Work Program for young people from a refugee and migrant background

*It is our mission that by the end of this program, all young participants will have **found a job** (or have enrolled in ongoing vocational training) and will have formed a **real plan of action for their future**. **Get on Track** is about supporting young people into fulltime employment or training.*

### MDA Get on Track

MDA **Get on Track** is a Get Set for Work program working specifically with young people **from a refugee and migrant background** between the ages of 15 and 19 who are disengaged, or at risk of disengaging, from school, training or work. The program is delivered as a **flexible mix** of hands-on group activities, informal training and individual casework.

The program helps young people build self-esteem and confidence, provides them with an opportunity to explore a vocational area through training and work experience, helps them explore career options and prepare for employment. Program activities focus on:

- **Lifeskills Training** (incl. core settlement lifeskills relating to education and employment for young people)
- **Employability Skills Development** (i.e. the basic underpinning skills and personal attributes all employers look for in their employees)
- **Job Preparation Skills Training** (incl. career pathway exploration, job search techniques, resume writing and interview skills practice)

- **Hope and Confidence Building Activities** (incl. social and recreational activities)

### Get Set For Work

The Get Set for Work program is a **Queensland Government** initiative to engage young people who have left school early (i.e. before completing Year 12) or are at risk of doing so (or, on completion of school, have been unable to engage in employment, training or further education). It is a **work readiness program** delivered in a community setting aiming to create transition pathways for these young people towards getting a job, continuing with other education or training, or returning to school.

The program operates as a '**safety net**' after other, more mainstream learning options have been explored unsuccessfully and the young person remains determined to leave school and is unlikely to be able to find employment without assistance.

Queensland laws require every young person past the compulsory school age (i.e. after completing Year 10 or having turned 16) to '**earn or learn**' until they turn 17. This means that, unless they are in full-time employment, they need to participate in education or training until they gain a Queensland Certificate of Education or a Certificate III vocational qualification. This is known as the '**compulsory participation phase**'.

The Get Set for Work program is a Departmental Employment Skills Development Program and as such is an '**eligible option**' for young people to meet their compulsory participation obligations. Young people who successfully complete the Get Set for Work program gain **two credit points** towards their Queensland Certificate of Education.

The Get Set for Work program is primarily targeted at 15- to 17-year-olds but also services older disengaged young people **up to 19 years of age**.

## July Program Intake

The program is **18 weeks** long with four days per week of activities from 9 am to 3.30 pm. It is delivered from MDA's head office at 28 Dibley St, Woolloongabba, close to the PA Hospital bus station and Park Road train station. **Our next program intake starts on 18 July 2011.**

Participants in the MDA Get on Track program will **make new friends**, build a career pathway plan, gain a strong understanding of what employers need and build the skills to meet these needs, get help with writing a resume and learn how to look and apply for work. The upcoming intake will also complete a retail training taster including work experience (see below) as well as simply engaging in **fun activities**, such as barbecuing, swimming, canoeing and more.

Participants will also have individual access to the program coordinator for one-on-one support and will receive post participation support for up to three months when moving on to further training, starting work or continuing to look for work.

There will be a maximum of **ten participants** in the upcoming July intake.

## Training and Work Experience

The 2011 Get on Track program includes vocational taste testers – short courses to boost participants' practical skills and improve their employment prospects at the end of the program.

- The July intake will have a **retail focus** and include six units of competency from the Certificate II in Retail (SIR20207).

Retail training will be flexible, hands-on and delivered in combination with six days of work experience with a nominated host employer.

## Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for participation in the MDA Get on Track program, participants must:

- Be between 15 and 19 years old at the intake commencement date;
- Come from a refugee or migrant background;
- Live in a suburb in Brisbane's inner-South; and
- Not be currently engaged in employment, training or mainstream education.

*Most importantly, we are looking for participants with the **right attitude** – young people who are prepared to take an active role in their own personal development and are able to commit to an 18-week intensive program.*

Further eligibility criteria may apply and will be assessed on an individual basis.

## Multicultural Development Association

The Multicultural Development Association Inc. (MDA) is a not-for-profit community organisation that was established in May 1998. MDA has grown to become Queensland's largest settlement agency for refugees and migrants promoting an **inclusive, just and multicultural society** and acting as a strategic mechanism for the empowerment of people from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

MDA's core business is **assisting refugees and migrants** throughout their settlement period in Australia and ensuring that their views and needs are represented and heard at all levels of society. Key MDA strategies include settlement services, community development and events, systems advocacy, employment and training, and a range of other service delivery activities.

For more information on MDA, please visit our website at [www.mdainc.org.au](http://www.mdainc.org.au).

## Contact Details

For further information, please contact us on the following details:

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