

Attention: COS, news, social affairs, health & community

MEDIA RELEASE

21 March, 2006

Newly Arrived Young People Benefit From New Service

Federal Minister Launches New Initiative

A new national initiative to assist newly arrived young people and their families, many of who have been refugees, will be launched this Wednesday by the Federal Minister for Community Services The Hon John Cobb MP at St. Albans (Melbourne).

The Newly Arrived Youth Support Service (NAYSS) initiative provides a range of culturally appropriate services for newly arrived young people aged 12 to 21 focused on positive engagement with family, school and community.

"This is a great new initiative, targeted at an important group of young people and it's now being provided in local areas (both urban and regional) across Australia" says The Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues (CMYI) Director Carmel Guerra.

These services will help newly arrived young people who are at risk, to improve their level of engagement with family, work, education, training and the community by using a variety of strategies such as counselling, family mediation and practical support.

"This initiative provides an opportunity to respond to the high needs of this group of young people in Australia," says Ms Guerra.

The NAYSS service in North West Melbourne will build on the networks and relationships already established by local services such as CMYI, the North West Migrant Resource Centre, Melbourne City Mission and the Salvation Army's Crossroads Youth and Family Services.

CMYI is a community based organisation that advocates for the needs of young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds.

In supporting young people, CMYI combines policy development and direct service delivery within a community development framework. This approach gives CMYI strong connections with young people and their communities while enabling positive change on a local, state and national level.

Great Story & Photo Opportunity

Where: Migrant Resource Centre North West, 45 Main Road West, St. Albans
(Cnr. Main Road West & McKechnie Street, St. Albans).

When: 11.00am on Wednesday 22nd March, 2006.

Media: CMYI can provide case studies and young people for interviews and a range of background information. Carmel Guerra and other members of CMYI with local/regional experience are available for interviews and comment.

**Contact CMYI media advisor Matt Clear of initi8 communications on 0403 229 094
or matt@initi8.net.au**

For more information on CMYI: www.cmyi.net.au or the NAYSS service: www.cmyi.net.au/NAYSS