

Swimming Program

Case Study—Women's Only Swimming Program

The ABC Centre and the City of DEF in Partnership with CMYI delivered a 7-week women's only swimming program.

The program consisted of a 1-hour swimming lesson with 1.5 hours of free time. ABC Leisure Centre engaged 2 swimming instructors and one lifeguard for the program. The program was aimed at young women between the ages of 12-25, and was delivered after hours on a Saturday night between 5.30-8pm.

One CMYI staff was also engaged to assist with the supervisor of the program. Connections were also made with the CMYI Reconnect worker in the North West.

The issues

The program hoped to provide an opportunity where the young women could participate in an environment that they felt comfortable and confident in. Sport provides young people with many physical benefits as well as social skills for newly arrived young people the chance to participate also provide a sense of connection and assist with resettlement issues.

Because of cultural issues women from some CLD communities need to participate in an all female environment.

The strategy

City of DEF and ABC Leisure Centre actively sort out a partnership with CMYI to assist them in making a connection with CLD communities in the area. The CMYI Reconnect worker works closely with CLD young people and their families and therefore has a trusted relationship with them.

Information about the program was also distributed to the community through other youth and community workers in the area working with CLD young people. Eg Dianella Youth Settlement Support Worker.

The Challenges

The first week of the program ran reasonably well. However there were a few issues that needed to be addressed. The City of DEF and ABC Leisure Centre decided that due to risk management issues the program could not accommodate for children. As this was not specified on the information some young women arrived with their children or younger siblings only to be let in but told that they would not be able to bring them next week.

Instructors and CMYI staff did not meet before the program began and so CMYI staff were unaware of the roles and responsibility of leisure centre staff and expected them to stay for the whole program only to be told that they were only staying to take the swim lesson.

The centre had not allocated a staff member at reception which meant that the door had to remain closed. As the door is not visible from the pool area a CMYI staff had to remain at the entrance to let people in, leaving only one person to supervise the participants in the pool.

In the second week of the program CMYI staff arrived only to find no council staff present and the centre closed. When staff contact the centre swim co coordinator they were told that the program because there was no council staff who were able to work. The reason no one had contacted CMYI staff was because no one had contact details and the youth services co coordinator from council was on leave.

This situation presented a number of problems for CMYI staff.

The young women began arriving and so they had to be turned away and told that the program was cancelled.

CMYI staff were concerned that young women would be dropped off and then be left with no way of returning home until their parents came back to pick them up at 8pm.

The communities identified the CMYI staff as the organisers of the program, and the cancellation of the program could possibly put at risk the relationship that the staff had established with the community.

This situation also causes confusion as to whether the program would run next week.

Strategies and what we learnt

When there are partners involved in a project a Memorandum of Understanding needs to be drawn up before the program begins.

All parties need to meet on site before the program begins.

Staff need to be paid appropriate penalty rates to ensure their commitment to the program.

Ensure that there is one extra staff rostered on in case issues arise.

Provide all parties with contact numbers and mobile numbers.

Contacts



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