

Community Support Groups

Frequently Asked Questions

Background

On 30 July 2018, the Victorian Government announced the establishment of Community Support Groups (CSGs) in Wyndham, Melton (with reach into Brimbank) and Dandenong (with reach into Casey) to strengthen youth engagement in South Sudanese communities and to ensure that young people and their families are linked into activities and services in their areas.

What is a Community Support Group?

A Community Support Group (CSG) is a coordinated, community-led approach to enhance youth and community engagement and to respond to local community issues and needs.

The focus of a CSG is to link people to an integrated range of programs and activities such as education, training, employment pathways, health and human services, sport and recreation and other community activities.

A CSG can also implement new programs and activities where community needs are identified.

How are Community Support Groups managed?

Following a comprehensive selection process, Wyndham Community and Education Centre has been appointed to manage the Wyndham CSG and the Centre for Multicultural Youth has been appointed to manage the Melton/Brimbank and Dandenong/Casey CSGs.

Each organisation is referred to as the 'auspice' of the respective CSGs.

The auspices are responsible for overseeing the operations of the CSG, the employment of staff and youth workers and the establishment of a Local Reference Group for each CSG.

What is a Local Reference Group? How can I get involved?

A Local Reference Group (LRG) will provide advice to the auspice about issues and priorities for the CSG.

Each LRG will comprise members from the South Sudanese community (including young people), representatives from state government departments and local government.

The LRG will guide each CSG's operations, activities and engagement with local South Sudanese communities.

Members from the South Sudanese community will be able to apply to participate on the LRG through an Expression of Interest process.

What is the funding for?

The Victorian Government has provided \$5.5 million funding to support a package of initiatives to strengthen youth and community engagement in Wyndham, Melton/Brimbank and Dandenong/Casey.

This includes funding for the establishment, staffing and day to day operations of the three Community Support Groups as well as youth outreach, youth mentoring, parenting programs, family support and other activities that are identified as a priority or need.

Why were auspice organisations chosen to manage the CSGs?

Significant organisational infrastructure and resourcing is required to establish and operate a CSG. The Wyndham Community and Education Centre and the Centre for Multicultural Youth are both well respected organisations, with a strong track record in delivering effective programs to support and empower culturally diverse communities.

Both auspices are committed to working with the South Sudanese community through the LRG and other mechanisms to ensure that the activities and programs delivered through the CSGs meet the community's needs.