

Att: Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Migration
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Date: 25/01/2017

Subject: Submission to Inquiry into Migrant Settlement Outcomes

Dear Committee Secretary,

This submission is on behalf of 15 young people who attended a youth mentoring and leadership camp in January through the Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre and Youth Futures in Western Australia. The young people ages range from 12 to 18 and all live in the Perth metropolitan area (in the northern suburbs). The young people have lived in Australia between 6 months and 7 ½ years, with the majority 4 years and under. The young people were all from refugee backgrounds and were born and/or identified as Syrian, Karen, Somali, Palestinian, Iraqi, Iranian and Afghan.

We sought the responses of young people to ensure their voices are heard within the inquiry and believed this would be a good opportunity for young people to share their experiences, stories and opinions in a non-judgemental and safe environment.

What is working well (dot point response from the young people);

- Centrelink give money
- Free education/schools
- Free country – have rights
- Shopping centres are good
- We have legal rights
- Youth activities with MMRC and other youth/settlement services– they are free and we can play in groups, meet other people and learning new things.
- Sporting activities
- New life
- New career
- Free parks
- Transport
- Better health care; emergency services, doctors and hospital
- Security – police is good

What was/is difficult (dot point response from the young people)?

- Internet
- School time is so long – half day better

- Racism
- Learning English is hard (please make it easier)
- Tax is too high
- Cutting funding for people who are newly arrived
- Cutting trees (urban explosion)
- Olna test
- Very hard to get drivers license
- Learning the culture
- Public transport too expensive
- Cut Centrelink payments off randomly is not good
- The process of Centrelink is very hard to understand (job provider etc)

What is one thing you would like to see for other young people like you (dot point response from the young people);

- Make skills recognised
- Give money to poor people
- Open shops 24 hours
- Basketball
- Give house, clothes, food, medicare, healthcare, bank (upon arrival continue what caseworkers do with the family to settle in)
- Open the borders for people seeking asylum and refuge (including those in Indonesia and all other places too)
- Transport at night time needs to be far more better (suggestions to fix this were: regulation into taxi/uber and more buses or trains at night)
- Give more opportunities to new arrivals
- Equal rights

Kind regards,

Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre and Youth Futures on behalf of 15 young people