

Media Release

21 June 2022

SydWest to Celebrate Refugee Week 2022

Community coming together to share stories and culture at colourful event in Blacktown!

SydWest Multicultural Services will be celebrating Refugee Week at a special event on Thursday 23rd June from 10.30am at Blacktown Workers Club.

This special annual event will see former refugees sharing their stories of the challenges of fleeing homelands and resettling in Australia.

Guest speakers on the day include:

- Jasmina Bajraktarevic-Hayward, President of Refugee Council of Australia
- Ibrahim Bangura
- Simon Shahin, Ambassador with Refugee Council of Australia

The program will also feature a wonderful selection of cultural performances, featuring music, dance and song by performers, all of refugee backgrounds, who will help share the beauty of their cultures. Performers represent Africa, Afghanistan, Bhutan and Arabic speaking countries.

- Afghan Poet, Mimi Goula
- Afghan Musician, Emal Orya
- Bhutanese Dancers
- African Dancers led by Geny Navuz
- Dabka performance, a Levantine folk dance
- Pianist Ammar Trad

SydWest will also be featuring some additional stories through a special display and booklet being prepared for the day. You will be amazed and impressed with the journeys that former refugees have gone through and the successes they have achieved here in Australia.

‘This Refugee Week, SydWest has invited the community to hear the stories of everyday people who found themselves fleeing for their lives. The trauma, scars, and heartbreak are often hidden as they resettle into a new country and focus on immediate needs. Through the power of storytelling and knowing they’re not alone in their lived experiences as refugees, we hope to provide a platform for connection, engagement, and healing,’ said Elfa Moraitakis, CEO of SydWest Multicultural Services.

The event promises to be a colourful expression of refugee resettlement and a great way of bringing all of the greater community together to support refugees and share in the healing process.

STATEMENT ENDS /

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Media Enquiries: For further information or to arrange interviews, contact Vikki Hine, Public Affairs & Communications, SydWest Multicultural Services on vikki.hine@sydwestms.org.au or 0428-109-215.

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SydWest Multicultural Services is a leading organisation for all cultural diversity issues responding to community needs and opportunities. Established more than 35 years ago, SydWest provides a range of services to culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) individuals and communities services to assist with settling and living productive and independent lives in the community. We offer flexible and integrated service models across the life course of refugees and migrants, supporting the self-determination and empowerment of our diverse communities. SydWest is an innovative employer of choice, with passionate, qualified and experienced bilingual and bicultural staff who are sensitive to the languages and cultures of the communities we represent. With locations in Blacktown, Mt Druitt, Penrith and Rouse Hill, we cover all matters of cultural diversity in the region.