

20 June 2017

## Chamber assists refugees kick start their business ideas

The Geelong Chamber of Commerce is delighted to support the City of Greater Geelong's *KickStart Your Business* program that aims to assist multicultural groups develop their understanding of small business.

The four-day *KickStart Your Business – A Multicultural Approach* program is being launched today as part of Refugee Week.

It will feature 20 members of Geelong's multicultural community from the following countries: Iran, Iraq, Liberia, South Sudan, India and Afghanistan and help them navigate the basics of the world of small business.

The Chamber's Small Business Smart Business program, an Australian Government initiative, has worked in collaboration with the City of Greater Geelong to tailor the four-day program to meet the needs of the region's multicultural communities.

The course will inform participants about legal issues, permits, work rights, support for small business, overcoming language barriers and opportunities available for social enterprise.

"Geelong's multicultural community has made a major contribution to the region's economy over many decades," Geelong Chamber of Commerce CEO Bernadette Uzelac said.

"We are delighted to support the City of Greater Geelong in delivering the *KickStart Your Business* program and look forward to seeing this group bring some great business ideas into our business community."

City of Greater Geelong Director Community Life Linda Quinn said the program aligned with the City's Multicultural Action Plan.

"Participants will leave the course with skills that will assist in making informed decisions when thinking about starting a small business or investing in one," Ms Quinn said.

Small Business Smart Business has been supported by the Australian Small Business Advisory Services (ASBAS) programme, an Australian Government initiative.

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