

A Fundraising Boost Thanks to Christine Nixon

"Young people need to believe that they have a future and all of us have a role to play in helping them to set goals." This was the key message delivered by Christine Nixon at the Moreland Leaders' Dinner held at Brunswick's iconic Hellenic Republic restaurant in October. Ms Nixon said "I am constantly surprised to meet young people, some as young as 12, who can't see a future for themselves. It is our role as parents, neighbours and friends to support young people to have a go."

The dinner raised over \$11,000 which will go towards boosting the grants available to community projects across Moreland, Darebin and Yarra from 2010 onwards. The Victorian Government has pledged a 3:1 funding offer on condition that we can raise \$100,000 by July 2010. To date we've raised over \$40,000 and need your support to reach the target. A big thank you to Moreland City Council for supporting the Moreland Leaders' Dinner.

You can make sure more local projects are funded in 2010 by making a tax deductible donation at www.innernorthfoundation.org.au or by calling 9481 9130.

Can you help?

Education and English proficiency are the key ingredients to getting a job. This may be true, but that's not what the twelve young women participating in Employment Pathways Project in Preston have found. The young women, who are of Somali origin, have had no luck in breaking into the workforce. The longer this situation persists, the more disillusioned they are becoming, and the more unrelated certificates they are adding to their CVs just to stay involved in positive pathways.

The young women are participating in a job-readiness program delivered by Jesuit Social Services, in partnership with the Somali Australian Council of Victoria, to improve their performance in the job application process and also to make sure they stay connected to positive programs. During the session on communication, Khadra who has teaching training, talks about her first experience of a panel interview, "When I saw a group of people sitting on the other side of the table I became so nervous that I started giggling. Every time they asked me a question I laughed. I could not stop. It was terrible." Asked what she would do next time, she says "I'll be more comfortable to tell them I am nervous and ask for their patience."

Sahra's story was similar, explaining that she folds her arms when she gets nervous to stop her hands from shaking. Until now, she hadn't thought how this could look to interviewers. "This project has helped the girls to feel more confident in the jobsearch process, but they will still need employers to give them a chance to prove themselves. These girls know what they want to do, for example Istar wants to be a midwife and Hamdi wants to become a social worker. We are in contact with employment providers to help them to find work but we hope anyone who reads this story will contact us discuss job opportunities they have for the girls," Maimun Mohamed, project coordinator. **Offers of employment or voluntary work placement opportunities can be directed to Trudy Hairs on 9481 9130.**

Moreland Leaders' Dinner



News Snippet

Victoria's Youth Unemployment Increasing

In the last year, unemployment among 15-19 year olds has jumped from 9.8% in 2008 to 13.6% in 2009. [Download the 2009 How Young People are Faring Report at \[www.fya.org.au\]\(http://www.fya.org.au\)](#)

Contribution of the Not-For-Profit Sector The Productivity Commission's draft research report into the contribution of the Not-For-Profit sector has just been released detailing the huge growth of the sector, its complexity and the issues that are holding the sector back from reaching its full potential. [Download the full report here](#)

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