



Media release

Craig Emerson MP

Member for Rankin

15 February 2010

Funding boost for newly arrived migrants and refugees

Member for Rankin Craig Emerson today announced the Federal Government would spend almost \$100,000 on support for newly arrived migrants and refugees.

Through the Diverse Australia Program, Logan City Council will receive \$45,000 for their *Youth and Experience* project, while Queensland Police Citizens Youth Welfare Association's Logan City Branch will receive \$50,000 to help break down the barriers in the Woodridge community.

"The *Breaking Down the Barriers* project will perform a crucial role in helping youth from all backgrounds to feel welcome in our community," Mr Emerson said.

The project will bring together young people from all cultures to participate in a series of music and art workshops. The workshops will also address important issues including racial and religious intolerance, and overcoming harassment and violence.

Meanwhile, the *Youth and Experience* project will connect 40 youths with senior citizens who will act as mentors to tackle intercultural issues, cultural awareness, youth engagement, identity and isolation.

While the project will focus on Indigenous and Samoan community groups, it will also engage with a broad range of cultural groups represented in the Logan community.

"It is essential that we develop relationships between generations and cultures to create a sense of belonging for all people in our community," Mr Emerson said.

More information on Diverse Australia Program projects can be found at www.harmony.gov.au.