

FOR MEDIA

CRAIG EMERSON

Member for Rankin

29 May 2009

BOOST FOR MIGRANT SETTLEMENT SERVICES

The Member for Rankin, Craig Emerson, today announced the Rudd Government would spend \$410,000 on services to assist refugees and migrants settle in South East Queensland.

The Meadowbank campus of Griffith University and Multilink in Logan Central are being funded as part of the Government's Settlement Grants Program. The program provides annual funding to help refugees and migrants become self-reliant and settle in Australia.

Funding will be provided to Multilink to conduct a comprehensive program to assist refugees and migrants strengthen their connection to the wider Australian community through cultural orientation and information sessions on health, employment and housing.

Mr Emerson said part of the funding will be used for practical driver education and training and social sports competitions and leadership development.

"The project will also deliver a school-based club for parents. This is a great way for parents who have just moved here to meet with and talk to other parents," he said.

Griffith University will also be given \$40,000 for their community food garden project to assist newly arrived refugees and migrants develop life skills and maintain good health.

The project brings refugees together to plan and plot communal gardens and provides health and nutrition information sessions.

Funding is aimed to assist refugees, family sponsored migrants and the dependants of those on skilled migration visas with low levels of English.

A list of successful applicants in the 2009-10 funding round is available on the Department of Immigration and Citizenship's website at www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia/delivering-assistance/settlement-grants.