

RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Refugee Literacy Intervention

Dr Loshini Naidoo, Professor Margaret Vickers and Dr Tania Ferfolja, Centre for Educational Research together with Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation have been awarded a UWS Research Partnership Program grant to provide targeted literacy support to humanitarian refugee students in the Western Sydney region.

'The aims of the research are to explore the effectiveness of strategies and practices in the tutoring of refugee students in after school tutoring centres and to explore the impact on the UWS tutors of their participation in a tutoring program for refugee students, particularly their approach to and understanding of appropriate pedagogies for teaching refugee student. The study will focus on the literacy development of refugee students and their understanding of the social requirements of the school setting.' says Dr Naidoo. 'Unless additional forms of literacy intervention for refugee children can be implemented, their future in Australia is bleak.'

A mixed method approach will be employed, featuring semi-structured, open-ended interviews and focus group discussions. From the interviews, researchers will be able to document changes in the student's social skills and from their tutors and coordinating teachers' reports, the research team will be able to assess changes in their literacy development. In cases where coordinating teachers at the schools are English Second Language (ESL) teachers, they will be able to comment or indicate each refugee student's performance in line with ESL scales. This will provide a concrete indication of the abilities of refugee students to read, write, speak, listen and think in their new language.



The results will provide clear guidance for teachers and schools on policies and strategies to enhance the academic achievement and acculturation of refugee students and inform policy makers, employers and teacher training institutions about the education of this largely disadvantaged group.

Project Title: Literacy development and acculturation for refugee students in the homework centres

Funding has been set at: \$20,159

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For more information on UWS Research Partnership Program, check:

<http://www.uws.edu.au/about/adminorg/devint/ors/fundingopps/internalgrants>