

Community of Practice for Early Years services working with children and families from refugee backgrounds



Foundation
House

The Victorian Foundation
for Survivors of Torture Inc.

OUTLINE

The Foundation House Early Years Communities of Practice (CoP) is a one-calendar year program which supports early years services to identify and implement strategies which improve the inclusion and participation of children and families from refugee backgrounds. The CoP is a 2021 Victorian Early Years Award winning initiative funded by the Victorian Department of Education. There is no cost to services.

The CoP is a partnership between Foundation House and Best Start which engages 8-10 services in a Local Government Area. The place-based approach targets services based in suburbs where families from refugee backgrounds are living.

Services receive

- ⇒ Participation in four professional learning workshops addressing: impacts of the refugee experience, supporting individual children and families, and building agency partnerships.
- ⇒ Four tailored onsite practice support meetings.
- ⇒ Support to develop an improvement plan and implement changes addressing their selected priority areas.
- ⇒ Department of Education backfill for selected qualified educators to participate in the four workshops.

Service responsibilities

- ⇒ Select a team with a minimum of two staff.
- ⇒ Enable the selected team members to participate in the four workshops (one per term) and in four tailored onsite practice support meetings.

Service benefits

Previous Communities of Practice have contributed to the following outcomes:

- ⇒ **Services** have improved their capacity to understand and respond to the needs of refugee background children and families in relation to education practices and service procedures/policies.
- ⇒ **Services** have increased networks and partnerships with other services in their Local Government Area.
- ⇒ **Educators and other staff** have increased their knowledge, skills, and confidence in culturally responsive, trauma-informed practice.
- ⇒ **Families** of children from refugee backgrounds are more confident and engaged with early years services, their child's learning, and local community.
- ⇒ Improved education engagement, transitions and well-being outcomes for **children from refugee backgrounds**.



AGREEMENT

On behalf of

(Service name)

I commit our participation with Foundation House for the Community of Practice.

Manager Name

Signature and date

Representing staff

Name	
Role	
Email	
Phone	
Dietary requirements	
Days of work	

Name	
Role	
Email	
Phone	
Dietary requirements	
Days of work	

Return signed form to earlyyears@foundationhouse.org.au