



Welcome to Australia Ltd.
www.welcometoaustralia.org.au
ABN 28 602 083 858

14 December 2017

To whom it may concern,

Please find enclosed an information pack about a brand new program we have launched: In partnership with the Australian Paralympic Committee, Welcome to Australia is happy to announce that referrals for Welcome to the Game are now open.

Welcome to the Game has been specially designed to provide strengths based support to children and young people living with disabilities, from refugee, asylum seeking and migrant backgrounds. The program will support these young people to engage in sports and recreation activities in a tailored and empowering way, encouraging social cohesion and improved self-esteem and mental health outcomes.

We would be grateful if you could disseminate the enclosed information around your organisation – referrals can come from anyone: refugee health nurses, parents, teachers, allied health professionals, case managers etc., as long as consent is obtained from the child or young person and their guardian.

Places are limited, and **referrals are open now**. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly should you have any questions. Further referral forms are available via nathan@welcometoaustralia.org.au.

Kindest regards,

Nathan Hamilton
Program Coordinator
Welcome to the Game

0466 573 383
nathan@welcometoaustralia.org.au



Welcome to the Game Victoria

Overview of the Program

Welcome to the Game Victoria is a new program delivered by Welcome to Australia, funded by the Victorian State Government under the Multicultural Sports Fund, and auspiced by the Australian Paralympic Committee. This program is designed and funded to support young people from refugee, asylum seeking and migrant backgrounds living with disabilities, to engage in sport and recreational activities and in turn feel welcomed, building long term social supports in the community. There are no other programs currently active in Victoria that work with this specific group of vulnerable people; a group which has grown significantly in the past 2-3 years.

Target group

Welcome to the Game Victoria is funded to work with children and young people living with a disability, the program has been designed to be as flexible and accessible to eligible participants:

- Young people 24 years old or younger that identify with refugee, asylum seeking or migrant backgrounds;
- There is no minimum age limit in place, the Program Coordinator will assess each application based on individual factors and consider risk, assessed need and goals/outcomes based on the participants age;
- No formal diagnosis of physical or intellectual disability is required to submit an application/referral. If you have questions regarding eligibility, in particular regarding mental health issues as a disability please contact the Program Coordinator.

How we work with the young person

1. Upon referral to the program, the Program Coordinator will meet with the young person and develop a tailored plan (with input from parents and the referring organisation) to help them identify their personal goals, including identifying a sport or recreational activity they are interested in trying, barriers to engagement and the sourcing of potential disability aids and supports needed to engage.
2. Once the plan is in place, the Program Coordinator will utilise a strengths-based approach to support the young person and their family to enact the plan. This could include supporting them to liaise with the chosen club, team etc., identify carpooling opportunities etc. and assisting with a small subsidy to pay for club fees and uniforms.

Education & stakeholder engagement

The program also has an educational component in which the Program Coordinator, in conjunction with the Australian Paralympic Committee, will provide education and support to local clubs, teams, and organisations about diversity and how to both attract and support new members from migrant backgrounds living with disabilities.

The Project Coordinator will work to identify a 'Club Champions' that are involved in the respective club or activity to ensure the sustainability of the young person's long term engagement.



The Program Coordinator will also run school holiday events to encourage participation, inclusion and welcoming to all young people in the community. These events will be advertised and open to young people of all abilities, ethnic backgrounds and cultures.

Contact Details

For more information on *Welcome to the Game Victoria*, or to refer a young person to the program, please contact the Program Coordinator, Nathan Hamilton at Nathan@welcometoaustralia.org.au or 0466 573 383.



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Program Coordinator

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A PILOT PROGRAM ASSISTING YOUNG PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES FROM MULTICULTURAL BACKGROUNDS TO ENGAGE IN SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Overview

Welcome to the Game Victoria is a new program delivered by *Welcome to Australia* that will work with children and young people living with a disability from migrant, refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds to become more engaged in sporting and recreational activities.

Intended Outcomes

The program aims to increase resilience skills and physical, social and emotional wellbeing for many of the most vulnerable young people in our community. Program participants will be supported to identify their sporting interests and establish physical, social and emotional goals.

Welcome to the Game Victoria works at an individual level with the participant and will provide information and practical linking support to access their chosen activity, be it with mainstream sporting and recreational clubs or with individual pursuits such as learning to swim or attending a local gymnasium regularly. It's the young person's choice.

Through ongoing engagement and support to make and build positive connections with sporting clubs, athletic bodies or active individuals it is intended that program participants will have made meaningful personal connections within their chosen sport/activity to maintain ongoing engagement and to assist with systemic barriers such as language, transport, access and cultural understanding. *If you, or anyone you provide support to would like more information please get in contact with the Program Coordinator, or send a completed referral form.*



Incorporates individual strengths based model that focuses on personal goals

Culturally sensitive and appropriate service

Ongoing education and support provided to participants, clubs and stakeholders

Broad target age group: young people 24 and younger

Formal diagnosis of a disability not necessary to be applicable to engage in the program

SEND REFERRALS TO:

Project Coordinator

Nathan Hamilton

Mobile: 0466573383

Email:

nathan@welcometoaustralia.org.au

Website:

<https://www.welcometoaustralia.org.au/game/>

Address: Level 2, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne 3000



ARE YOU A YOUNG PERSON LIVING WITH A DISABILITY?

Welcome to the Game can support you to get involved in sporting clubs and recreational activities in your local community

ARE YOU ALSO FROM A MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY?

We work to cultivate a culture of welcome within our communities - and having young people living with disabilities participating in sport is a great place to start



GET INVOLVED GET SOCIAL FEEL WELCOME

Welcome to the Game incorporates an individual strengths based approach to achieve your personal goals and aspirations

CONTACT THE PROJECT COORDINATOR

nathan@welcometoaustralia.org.au

0466 573 383

www.welcometoaustralia.org.au/



AUSTRALIAN
PARALYMPIC
COMMITTEE



WELCOME
TO THE GAME





Service Provider Referral Form

Welcome to the Game Victoria is an initiative from Welcome to Australia that uses sports engagement to work with children and young people living with a disability who are from migrant, refugee and asylum seeking backgrounds. Please forward the signed and completed referral form to Welcome to the Game Project Coordinator: nathan@welcometoaustralia.org.au.

Primary applicant's details:

First Name		Preferred Name	
Family Name			
Date of Birth		Age	Gender
Country of Birth			
Cultural/ethnic Background			
Primary Language(s) spoken at home		English Level	
Visa / Residency Status		Interpreter Required Y/N	
		<i>Primarily for consent</i>	

Contact Details:

Residential Address	
Mobile Phone	
Email	
Is the Program Participant Contactable directly	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
What is the preferred method of contact	
Emergency Contact Person and details	

Health & Community link Details:

Disability <i>Physical and/or intellectual; If multiple, please indicate all</i>	<i>Click or tap here to enter text.</i>
Diagnosis/ self-diagnosis <i>Please provide information that can assist the worker to provide tailored support</i>	<i>Click or tap here to enter text.</i>
Aids utilised/ required <i>e.g. wheelchair, modified transport etc.</i>	<i>Click or tap here to enter text.</i>
Current supports and/ or services currently in place <i>Funded caregivers, family, community links or services</i>	<i>Click or tap here to enter text.</i>
Education Information <i>School, Language Provider, etc...</i>	<i>Click or tap here to enter text.</i>



Further Information:

What, if any, sport or recreational activity, has the applicant indicated they would like to be linked to or learn more information about?

What sports or physical activities has the applicant previously been involved with?

Please list the main barriers for the applicant to access these activities independently?

Note: If the applicant does not know what sport or activity they are interested in, this is not a barrier to acceptance, but please list personal interests and skills of the individual.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Consent to Refer:

The referrer must obtain the person's consent and their signature below before submitting to *Welcome to the Game* Project Coordinator. All reasonable steps must be taken to ensure that the applicant understands and consents to:

- Information in the referral form being shared with relevant external stakeholders to assist in linking the applicant to sporting opportunities.
- Submission of the application form does not guarantee acceptance to the program.
- If accepted, Program Coordinator will conduct consent form and needs assessment.

Signature or mark of program applicant: _____

Date: _____

Signature of parent/ guardian: _____

Date: _____

Referral Agency: _____

Name of referrer and role: _____

Referrer Telephone: _____

Signature or referrer: _____

Date: _____

Welcome to the Game Project Coordinator to complete

Applicant approved for Program: Yes No

Applicant and referral agency contacted regarding provision of support: Yes No

Applicant's information uploaded to records: Yes No

Program Coordinator Signature: _____



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