



Connect
Australia
Foundation

Expression of Interest for the Scholarship Program 2010

Background

Settlement Services International (previously known as the Migrant Resource Centre Association Inc) was established by the Migrant Resources Centres of NSW as an important vehicle to provide direct services to refugee and special humanitarian entrants into NSW on a state wide basis.

As part of its ongoing program development and its commitment to meeting the needs of people and communities with refugee experiences, the SSI has established the Connect Australia Foundation (CAF). The statement of purpose for the CAF is as follows:

The Connect Australia Foundation seeks to provide focus on the settlement of refugees* into Australia with a view to increase the level of success for both on arrival settlement and longer-term community integration. The Connect Australia Foundation aims to help minimise the impact of structural poverty felt by those seeking refuge in Australia.

* The term 'refugee' includes migrants under the Humanitarian Entrants Scheme, Family Reunion, entrants under the Women at Risk Program and those with refugee experiences.

It is intended that The Connect Australia Foundation will set up program activities or priorities which may include one or more of the following:

- Fund pilot projects to facilitate on arrival settlement;
- Evaluate programs which deliver models of best practice and service delivery;
- Investigate and determine formative evaluations that can determine the specific settlement needs of demographic sub-groups such as women, youth or religious minorities;
- Develop a scholarship program targeting the educational and vocational enhancement of refugee youth;
- Promote and provide public discourse on refugee issues.

Further information about CAF can be found at www.refugeaustralia.org.au



The Connect Australia Foundation Scholarship Program

The increasing costs of education in Australia has made tertiary studies a difficult goal to achieve. CAF acknowledges how difficult it is to manage the costs associated with tertiary studies, especially for those who have experienced the ordeal of relocation and settlement to Australia.

CAF is committed to supporting people with refugee backgrounds to participate in academic study. Each year the CAF will offer two scholarships for students of the Humanities or Social Work who have a vision for a fairer, more just society. These will be offered to one male and one female who came to Australia as a refugee or under the humanitarian settlement program.

The value of each scholarship is \$3,000 cash. The successful scholar will also be offered an internship at one of the migrant resource centres across NSW.

The female scholarship has been named the **Claudette Elaro Refugee Women's Scholarship** to honour Claudette who was a leading women's and refugee advocate who passed away in 2008. Claudette Elaro was respected for her unwavering commitment to seeking justice for the basic human rights of all peoples. She showed us that with immense dignity, optimism, passion and self respect, one can rise above adversity and life's many challenges.

The male scholarship is named the **Patrick Koffa Scholarship** in honour of Patrick Koffa, a young refugee from Liberia who drowned at City Beach, Wollongong in March 2009. Despite his young age, Partick Koffa was able to achieve a balance of study, employment and community life and had a vision to one day return to Liberia to 'help his fellow country men'. Patrick Koffa was a valued member of the Liberian community who is sorely missed.

The Application Process

All applications received will be considered by the Connect Australia Foundation Board Members, who may wish to interview applicants.

Applicants are requested to submit the following:

- CAF Scholarship Application Form
- A copy of your most recent academic transcript
- A cover letter introducing yourself to the CAF Board



Application Lodgement

Please submit your application by **Monday 31st May 2010**.

Applications can be lodged to:

Email: info@connectaustralia.org.au

Postal: Executive Officer
Connect Australia Foundation
Level 1, 93 Norton Street
Leichhardt NSW 2040

Telephone: 02 8585 1399

Fax: 02 8585 1325



Grant Application Form

Project Details:

1. **Date**
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2. **Applicant contact details**
Name
email
Telephone
Address
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3. **Gender:**
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4. **Date of Birth:**
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5. **Details of course being undertaken:**
Course Name:
Year:
Institution:

6. **Please provide details of refugee status or entrant program:**
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7. **What is your vision for a fairer, more just society?**

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8. **How would this money help you? Please explain how you would spend the funds:**

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9. **Please specify your current level and sources of income:**

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10. Please detail your reasons for being considered for this scholarship:

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11. What would you hope to achieve from an internship at a migrant resource centre

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12. Please provide details for three referees:

Referee 1

Name
Occupation
Relationship to Applicant
Contact Details

Referee 2

Name
Occupation
Relationship to Applicant
Contact Details

Referee 3

Name
Occupation
Relationship to Applicant
Contact Details

For submission, please ensure that you also attach a cover letter introducing yourself and a copy of your most recent academic transcript.