

ASPIRING TO CARING CAREERS



“ It is well known that the causes of social disadvantage compound each other to create a whole bigger than its parts... ”



Provider Name

Sydney Community College

Contact

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Program

Non-Accredited plus part qualifications in Community Services and FSK

Target Group

Migrant & refugee, Low LLN, Unemployed or underemployed, Disability

Details

1 day x 12 weeks, excluding school holidays

Key points of difference

Volunteer opportunities, Partnership with community service providers, removing barriers to attendance

Social exclusion is a major problem for many of the participants of the Caring Careers Short Course delivered by Sydney Community College.

Learners can often experience multiple barriers such as: very low self esteem and confidence; limited LLN skills; limited understanding of the VET system and career pathways; negative perception of themselves as learners; feelings of social exclusion; lack of personal/family support; limited access to transport, computers and other material resources.

The Caring Careers Short Course offers statements of attainment in Certificate III in Individual Care and Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways and a non-accredited module focused on volunteering skills.

The success of the program is based in the strong focus on partnerships with community service providers and careful attention to removing barriers to participation. For example:

- Training is provided in welcoming locations, close to public transport and childcare facilities
- Using initial LLN assessments to inform learning and assessment strategies
- Addressing attendance issues promptly
- Using peer support amongst learners and creating a sense of family in the group
- Close partnerships with community service providers offering volunteer opportunities and wrap around services
- Employment of an ACE CSO Targeted Communities Training Program Manager to engage with the community centres as partners in program delivery

Outcomes of training can be measured and reported in terms of AVETMISS coded results, but this is a blunt measure and does not tell the details of the story: a story that may have enormous value to both the individual and the community.

The detailed story resonates with outcomes more difficult to measure such as: breaking down personal barriers and feelings of social exclusion and worthlessness, and building social capital by linking individuals to a range of community service providers.

The Caring Careers Short Course students develop and regularly review their Learning and Career Pathway Plans throughout the course.

The development of these plans and feedback in the end-of-course surveys tell a story of increased confidence, new friends and connections, clearer educational and career plans, and improved English skills.

This training is subsidised by the NSW Government.