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MEDIA RELEASE

Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia



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YOUNG MIGRANTS LEARN HOW TO TELL THEIR STORIES

Twenty five young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds have been selected for a unique program to teach them how to tell their stories to the wider public.

The Shout Out program, which is based on a program in Victoria, aims to provide a platform for young people to improve their public speaking and media skills so that they're able to share their perspective on issues that are important to them.

The program received 27 applications, and 25 young people between 18 and 25 have been selected to take part.

The pilot program is being organised by the Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network (MYANWA), which is run out of the office of the Youth Affairs Council of WA.

Program co-organiser Sara Shengeb said Shout Out will run over two months and will include 4 full day workshops on a variety of topics, including speech writing, public speaking and media interview skills.

"This program is about giving young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds a voice," she said.

"We want them to have the confidence to stand up and speak out about the issues that are important to them.

"There are many social issues affecting young people in this group and at the moment many of them are not having their perspectives heard by the wider community."

Sara has first hand knowledge of how important it is for young people to have confidence to tell their stories.

Sara was resettled in Australia after being a refugee for three years when her family was forced to flee Eritrea.

"As a recently resettled ex-refugee and an active member of the Australian community, I see the ability to share stories as a strong tool to have in changing perspectives and the negative stereotypes that can surround migrants and refugees," she said.

"It is a way to influence communities and challenge ideologies and Shout Out is there to provide a platform and to support the young people's needs to allow them to deliver messages effectively."

The program is an initiative of CMY (Centre for Multicultural Youth) and is funded by the Office of Multicultural Interests. Training sessions will finish on June 12 and speaking opportunities will begin in July 2016.

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