



# AUSTRALIAN REFUGEE ASSOCIATION

## About the Organisation

Established in 1975, the Australian Refugee Association (ARA) is a non-profit charitable organisation which seeks to enable refugees and people from similar situations to settle in Australia with independence and dignity, and to develop and achieve their aspirations and opportunities in life. ARA recognises that people can become refugees through war, civil unrest and poverty; persecution for religious, racial and political reasons; environmental disasters and degradation; limited employment prospects and other hardships.

ARA provides advice, assistance, advocacy and practical support in the areas of settlement, migration, employment, community education and policy development. A dedicated community of volunteers is central to providing these services. Volunteers collect and distribute donated furniture, visit newly arrived families to offer friendship and community orientation, assist with legal research, teach English and other vocational skills such as basic computing, mentor students, and assist with promotional activities at festivals and events.

Volunteers also gain enormous benefits through working at ARA. Volunteers have the opportunity to meet people from diverse cultural backgrounds, develop new skills and improve their existing skills, and develop their understanding of the circumstances affecting refugees both locally and globally. Most importantly, volunteers will be inspired by the undying optimism and endurance of many of ARA's clientele.

## Project Information: Refugee Settlement

Participation in this project is designed for students who wish to undertake an internationally-focused volunteering placement here in South Australia. ARA's refugee settlement service assists refugees and asylum seekers make the difficult transition from arriving in South Australia to feeling settled and part of the community. As part of volunteering with ARA, UniSA students may assist individuals and families by providing advice on finances and budgeting, setting up a new home, collecting donated household goods, providing information about the local South Australian community, or teaching conversational English. An important part of the settlement Program is providing friendship and support to refugees, and ARA also organises a range of social activities to help new arrivals become involved in the community and make new friends. In addition, UniSA students will have the opportunity to learn about the ways ARA can assist refugees with a range of ongoing needs, such as difficulty in accessing government departments, limited social and familial structures, isolation from mainstream society, the effects of trauma and cultural bereavement.

## Cost

There are no costs involved in a placement with ARA. However, students will need to provide for their own travel within Adelaide and meals.

## Length of Service

6 Months

## For more information:

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