## Discussion questions for parents of refugee background

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| Video resource *‘Refugee background young people talk about aspirations and educational success’* The video depicts five young adults of refugee-background sharing their experiences navigating education, cultural identity and parental aspirations as they build on their academic success, pursue their own aspirations and make the most of their opportunities for a better future.<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5bZR7UDWVk8&list=PLuKE0ROYHJPncPSghu4irQR3xQr-JorEJ&index=1> |

Discussion questions for educators to facilitate with parents an understanding of:

* educational complexities that their children may navigate over time
* positive ways they can support their children to achieve well academically

Educators are welcome to adapt the questions to suit individual contexts.

1. What would you like to share about your own background?
2. What was your schooling experience like before you came to Australia?
3. How much do your children know about your own family refugee journey and reasons for settling in Australia? Have you shared everything or kept some details from your children?
4. Freshta says; ‘We have to do well, that’s our purpose in life’. Why do you think Freshta says this? Do you think that your children feel like this also? To what extent?
5. Jenny says ‘It’s an asset being from a refugee-background and speaking more than one language’. Do your children speak home languages, as Jenny does? How easy/ challenging is it to maintain home languages? What do you see as the benefits that your refugee-background experience provides?
6. Freshta says that it took herself some time to accept ‘all parts of herself’ and Simion describes himself as ‘cosmopolitan’. How strong is your children’s family cultural identity? What about their belonging within the wider community? What are the positives and challenges in balancing home and wider community identity? How do you and your children balance home and wider community cultures? What are the benefits of being more cosmopolitan? What might be the negatives?
7. Sonia is quite emotional when she talks about her parents wanting her to be happy, healthy and successful. Simion talks about his parents wanting the children to do better than they did and to pursue their dreams and Jenny talks about discussing her own aspirations with her parents. What do you hope and aspire for your children’s future in Australia? How do you discuss these aspirations your children? To what extent are your discussions with your children two-way where you talk and listen and they talk
8. Raghad talks about her father supporting her ‘no matter what’ even though he doesn’t know about what and how she is learning at school. How do you get information about how your child doing at school and what they are learning? How well are you able to communicate with the school? What works well? To what extent do your children talk with you about their education? Who else do they discuss their education with?
9. Sonia says that she just wanted to be an educated girl. How do you feel about the issue of gender-equity in education?
10. What is your understanding of opportunities for your children to go to university? Is this the best option or are there other effective options also to good future employment? Where do you get your information about future opportunities from?
11. What have you learned from listening to the successful young people talking about their schooling experience and relationship with their parents? How has this video made you feel? Will you do anything differently after hearing their stories?

Citation:





