



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Vinnies VoRTCS program need more volunteers in North Brisbane**

Vinnies volunteer refugee tutoring service, VoRTCS, is looking for more volunteers to undertake its vital work making a difference in the lives of refugee families.

The Volunteer Refugee Tutoring & Community Support Program or VoRTCS (pronounced vortex) assists refugee families in making the most of the educational, vocational and social opportunities that exist in Australian society.

The success of the program has resulted in an increased need for volunteers with around 50 families currently on the waiting list to receive assistance.

The suburbs in greatest need of volunteers in Brisbane include Brendale, Zillmere, Stafford Heights and Wavell Heights.

VoRTCS volunteers provide refugee families with community support and English language skills to help refugees enjoy everything that Australia can offer and settle into the community.

VoRTCS committee president Peter Ayscough said the volunteers in the program are united in a belief that their work helps create an improved and more inclusive community.

“We believe that refugees have a lot to contribute to Australian society and should be assisted and encouraged to reach their full potential,” he said.

Mr Ayscough said volunteering with the program was incredibly rewarding.

“It is one of the best things I have ever done,” he said.

“It is heart-warming to watch the people that we help grow in confidence with their language skills each week and embrace their new life here in Australia.”

Mr Ayscough said volunteer teams visit and teach in the families own homes in a relaxed environment for an hour to an hour and a half each week.

“You talk about what’s relevant and what is happening for the family that week and also try and help them with any problems they might have,” he said.

“That is a great way for them to learn English.”

VoRTCS volunteers are currently helping 680 refugees and Mr Ayscough said it’s a good feeling seeing clients of the program succeed.

“We have had plenty of success with students going on to graduate high school and attend university and also gain employment in the community,” he said.

For more information on the VoRTCS program visit <http://refugeetutoring.org/> or call (07) 3010 1069.

**ENDS.**

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