

The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) has approved 19 new projects under the first round of its Community Policing Partnership Program (CPPP).

The CPPP is a national initiative by HREOC, in collaboration with the Australian Multicultural Foundation, that aims to build relationships and improve trust between Muslim communities and police at the local level.

AMAL Street Outreach (*NSW: partnership between Mission of Hope Lakemba and Bankstown Police*) This is a 6-month pilot program that aims to decrease at-risk behaviour and attitudes and to target crime prevention strategies in youth who are of Arab and Muslim backgrounds, unemployed, truant from school, have mental health issues, are experiencing isolation or are displaying challenging behaviours. The project will train volunteers to provide a mobile service that will liaise with local police. The mobile service aims to engage youth who do not access community services, identify their needs and issues, encourage crime prevention, provide support and accurate information about substance abuse and other anti-social behaviour.

For more information go to: <http://www.amal.org.au/streetoutreach.html>

Bridging the Communication Gap (*QLD: Islamic Women's Association of Queensland and Metro South Region Police*) This project aims to enhance relationships and communication between Muslim women, frail aged older Muslim people, young Muslim people and the police by providing an interactive dinner forum about police responsibilities to be attended by police and Muslim people. A separate workshop dinner for newly arrived young Muslim refugees, that addresses the misunderstandings and negative stereotypes between police and young Muslims, will also be conducted. This project is also being funded and supported by HREOC's Sex and Age Discrimination unit.

Building Bridges (*NSW: Macarthur Diversity Services Inc, Campbelltown Police and Macquarie Fields Police*) The project aims to counteract discriminatory views and intolerance towards Muslim Australians and promote social cohesion by providing a cultural exchange program, a rock and water program and open dialogue sessions.

For information on *Macarthur Diversity Services* go to : <http://www.mdsi.org.au/>

Diversity in Policing Mentoring Project (*National: Australian Federal Police, Islamic Councils, Women's Groups, Youth Groups Community Service Providers*). The Australian Federal Police, Islamic Liaison Team will take a group of 80 young Muslim women on a weekend coaching camp. It will include workshops and activities in which the women will be able to raise, discuss and resolve issues that impact upon women from CALD backgrounds in an open and supportive environment. This project is also being funded and supported by HREOC's Sex and Age Discrimination unit.

For information about the work of the *Australian Federal Police, Islamic Liaison Team* please go to:

http://www.afp.gov.au/media/national_media/national_events/2008/unity_cup_family_day

Hands Across Hobart (*Tas: Hobart Police and Community Youth Club, Tasmania Police and the Migrant Resource Centre*) This is a program of workshops and training, provided to the community and police for one hour a week over five weeks, with the aim of promoting a common understanding between the community and police. They will address cultural aspects of the community and the problems faced by police working in the community. The program will include training for young men in communication skills, the cultural aspects of body language and dealing appropriately with women, as well as basic self-awareness and fitness for women. Workshops between international students and police will deal with issues such as fear of police and understanding legal structures and basic laws.

In my boots – A Muslim Youth leadership and police recruitment camp (*QLD: Sudanese Women's Group, Islamic Society of Darra and the Metropolitan South Region Mt Gravatt Police*). This project consists of a single day weekend youth camp at the Police Academy in Brisbane which will introduce 20 youths, aged 17-30 years, to police training practices and encourage them to consider policing as a career. A major dinner will be held on the last day of the camp for high ranking police and recruits and leaders within the Muslim community.

Kicking with Cops (*QLD: QLD I Care Association and Metro South Mt Gravatt Police*) Kicking with Cops aims to provide an informal avenue for young Muslim people to mix with members of the QLD Police Service at a community event. The event includes a rugby league match between members of the Muslim community and the QPS rugby league team.

Muslim Women's Recreational Project (*ACT: ACT Policing and Canberra Police Citizens Youth Club*) This is a sport and recreational project for Muslim women of all ages in the Canberra community that aims to enhance the relationship between police and Muslim women. Activity sessions such as dancing, self-defence, cooking, aerobics, tots tumbling, and arts and crafts will be held three times a week. Female ACT police officers will attend the activity sessions in a safe women-only environment.

Muslim Youth and Police harmony Project (*NSW: St George Youth Services Inc, St George PCYC, Hurstville Police, St George Police*) This project aims to promote harmony and strengthen relationships between young Muslim men and police in the St George area. It will provide a personal and life-skills education group for young Muslim men at risk of coming into contact with police, and will include outdoor adventure activities, sport and personal development. It will also involve cultural diversity training about young Muslim people for 100 police officers in the local area command.

Muslim Youth and WA Police Connect (*WA: Muslim Youth WA and Muslim Women's Support Centre W.A*) Through activities such as visiting the Police Academy, self defence classes, sports and games the project aims to break down barriers and increase trust and understanding between Muslim youth and police. The program will include weekend-long camp that will be attended by the youth and members of the police. The camp will include activities such as canoeing, raft making and search and rescue.

NSW Police and Afghan Youth Partnership (NSW: Metro West Parramatta Police, the Afghan Australian Noor Association and the AYAN Inc Afghan Youth Network of Australia). This project consists of two youth camps (3 days, 2 nights) for 35 to 50 Afghan youths at which they will interact with police officers in activities that aim to exchange opinions, eliminate negative perceptions and strengthen relationships.

Out of Bounds: Police Youth Mentoring Project (NSW: Forum on Australia's Islamic relations Inc and Auburn Police) The objective of this project is to help prevent crime in the Auburn area through a 12-week program that will promote relationships between marginalized 15 to 23 year old youths of Somali, Sudanese, Lebanese and Iraqi backgrounds and Auburn police officers. The program includes a workshop with out-of-uniform police, covering issues such as communication, conflict resolution and consensus decision-making. There will be five meetings held in a home, at a BBQ, a sporting outing, at the beach and on a boat, with a final meeting with in-uniform police in a street or public place with other police officers and other youths. A follow-up meeting will be held two months later. For information about the *Forum on Australia's Islamic Relations Inc* please go to: <http://www.fair.org.au/new/>

Police and Arabic Speaking Support Group (NSW: Green Valley Local Area Command NSW, Liverpool City Council: Community Planning Team and the Liverpool Migrant Resource Centre) This project aims to provide community harmony and safety initiatives for Arabic-speaking communities and police by holding monthly meetings and seminars, a safety expo and an annual bbq with police and the Muslim and Arabic Support Group. The seminars will include topics such as multicultural awareness, crime prevention, domestic violence, the law, and the role of police. The Group will facilitate contact with Arabic leaders through the Migrant Resource Centre.

Police and New Australians Together (Vic: Whittlesea Community Connections Victoria and Epping Police) This is an activity-based program facilitated by an Epping Police Youth Resource Officer, a local female police officer, a settlement youth worker and an Arabic Speaking settlement worker. The program will provide interaction between 15 newly arrived male and female Muslim migrants aged between 12 and 18 and police officers. It will provide a single day 'Ropes Program' that will involve activities and a discussion session on the role of police and explore past experiences and perceptions. It will also provide the teenagers with police excursions to places such as the Police Academy, Airwing and the Water Police Magistrate's court.

For information about *Whittlesea Community Connections* please go to <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~ciwwhit/>

Police as Partners (NSW: Blacktown Migrant Resource Centre and Bankstown Police) The project aims to engage young people from the Australian Islamic College, aged 12-18 years, by combining information sessions on policing and the legal system

with fun interactive workshops on multimedia production and theatre workshops to create and open dialogue between Muslim young people and the police.

For information about the *Blacktown Migrant Resource Centre* please go to <http://www.blacktownmrc.org.au/>

Rush Hour (*Vic: ICRA Youth Centre Incorporated and Flemington Local Area Command*) The project will encourage young Australian Muslims aged between 12 and 18 to enter the police force. It will foster mutual respect and understanding between young people and the police, educate young people about their rights and responsibilities as citizens of Australia, and it will inform police of potential barriers to communication with young Muslim people and the community. The program will run weekly mentoring sessions and police station workshops about crime, crime prevention, speeding, the effects of drugs and alcohol and cross-cultural training. It will host a three day camp at Goulburn to encourage young people to enter the police force, as well as invite the community to a Mosque open day and BBQ with police. Additionally, each week one young person will have the opportunity to spend a couple of hours in a police patrol accompanied by ICRA staff.

Summer Youth Program Flemington (*Vic: Jesuit Social Services Flemington, Victorian Police Region 2 Division 3 Flemington, VICSEG and Somalian and Eritrean community organisations*) This project will involve police officers and around 100 African Muslim boys and girls of secondary and post-secondary school age in Flemington, North Melbourne and Kensington in evening programs of activities at Kensington Recreation Centre YMCA. These programs include basketball, indoor soccer competitions and table tennis. They will include educational sessions for youth about their rights and responsibilities in relation to the role of police, Ramadan and its place in the Islamic calendar, and life in the African Muslim community.

For information on the *Jesuit Social Services* please go to <http://www.jss.org.au/>

Tie the Knot (*NSW: South West Metropolitan Bankstown NSW, the NSW Police Force Bankstown Local Area Command. Other partners: PCYC, Creating Links, Bankstown Hoyts and Cataract Park*) This project aims to raise awareness of domestic violence in Australian Muslim Communities. It will provide educational workshops on domestic violence, healthy relationships and conflict management, as well as social and recreational activities, to approximately 80 Australian Muslim students and 30 police officers, ethnic community liaison officers, community leaders and community workers. This project is also being funded by HREOC's Sex and Age Discrimination Unit.

Youth Arabic and Islamic Crime Prevention Program (*Vic: Victorian Arabic Social Services, Multicultural and Counter terrorism units of Victoria Police*) This program aims to strengthen relationships and trust between Victorian police and Arabic and Islamic youth who are at risk of criminal activity, raise awareness amongst Victoria Police of the diversity of Arabic and Islamic communities, and improve awareness among Arabic and Islamic youths about the roles and responsibilities of the police. It will do this through providing a police cross cultural training course about

issues facing Arabic and Islamic youth, as well as a High Challenge Camp with Victoria Police and young Arabic and Islamic youths who are at risk of being marginalized from the mainstream society.

For more information about *Victorian Arabic Social Services* please go to:
<http://www.vass.org.au/>