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Spectrum showcases success stories for Refugee Week

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Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre held a Refugee Week lunch last week for clients and staff of the Hume Community Hub at 61 Riggall Street, Dallas.

Attendees enjoyed a selection of multicultural dishes and a variety of cultural performances including a dance by former refugee and founder of the Hume Afghan Association, Saleha Talash.

The Refugee Week theme “With Courage Let Us all Combine” encourages all Australians to celebrate the best aspects of our nation’s refugees. Like many of this week’s Refugee Week events, the lunch recognised the stories of resilience of refugees and celebrated the diversity and enrichment they bring to Australia. Importantly, a number of speakers who have experienced life as a refugee had the chance to tell some of their story.

“We are so lucky to have an invigorating mix of people from more than 120 different countries that speak more than forty different languages in Hume,” Hume Community Hub Coordinator at Spectrum MRC, Amy Hunter said in her opening address.

“Twenty per cent of Australians were born in another country, of whom more than half come from non-English speaking nations. Combined with their Australian-born children, they make up 43 per cent of the population.

“We can take pride in the rich multicultural heritage that contributes to the social, economic and religious diversity of our community.

“Community members, especially those among us who have experienced life as a refugee, we celebrate your courage and resilience today, and thank you very much for your wonderful contribution to our local community and to Australia,” Ms Hunter said.

Federal Member for Calwell, and Deputy Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Migration, Maria Vamvakinou was in attendance along with representatives from AMES Victoria and Arabic Welfare who collaborated with Spectrum MRC to organise the event. Staff and students from Melbourne Polytechnic and Hume Central English Language Centre also joined in the celebrations.

The Hume Community Hub Project, coordinated by Spectrum MRC, strengthens the relationships between co-located services at the Dallas Street site, including: AMES Australia, Arabic Welfare Inc, Brotherhood of St Lawrence, Hume Whittlesea Primary Care Partnership, VICSEG New Futures, Iraqi Council, WISE Employment, Neami National, Salvation Army Crossroads, Kildonan Uniting Care and Hume Moreland Services Connect. Other expo stalls will include Melbourne Polytechnic, Kangan TAFE, Brite Services, MFB, Vic Police, Mental Health North West, Centrelink, Ecumenical Migration Centre.

**For further information or interviews contact Spectrum’s media liaison
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