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## **RACV support will help refugees to call Australia home**

Settling into Australia will be easier for many refugees in the Dandenong area following a \$13,400 RACV Good Citizen Program grant to CatholicCare Dandenong.

The funding will be used to buy IT equipment, including a projector, tablets, laptop and a portable printer for community education classes as part of a Refugee and Settlement Program. Catholic Care Dandenong offers a wide range of services but until now has been restricted in delivering its settlement program due to a lack of resources.

CatholicCare Senior Manager Eastern and Gippsland Regions Lisa Cook said the grant is fantastic news.

“We’ve gone from nothing to moving into the 21st Century. We will now be able to download apps and documents to help refugees learn about Australian laws, our health system, going for a driving licence, training and applying for employment and much more.

“The technology also provides a translating tool that will enable some participants to learn in their own language. This will be valuable because many people we help speak little English.

“We try to address the bigger picture and also give guidance on simple things such as how to buy products and understanding the symbols on labels. Some women were walking children two or three kilometres to school because they did not understand the bus or myki systems; now they can even follow a timetable.”

The classes are free and each involves up to 20 men or women, mostly from the Horn of Africa, Afghanistan and Iraq. Each week a different skill is taught and participants continue in the program until they feel confident.

RACV Executive General Manager Membership Services, Susan Allen said that RACV was pleased to facilitate the upgrade of these important classes.

“The grant will enable CatholicCare Dandenong to greatly improve the level and quality of classes in its settlement program,” she said.

“We are proud to be part of the greater Dandenong community through our operational headquarters in Noble Park and this contribution to CatholicCare Dandenong represents a tangible way for RACV to support and strengthen our local community.

**Media inquiries: Liselotte Geary, RACV Public Affairs 9790 2717 or 0410 087 746.**

### **Attachment**

**Photo A:** (seated centre) RACV Executive General Manager Membership Services, Susan Allen and CatholicCare Eastern Area Senior Manager, Lisa Cook. CatholicCare Refugee Settlement Staff.

**Photo B:** (left to right) CatholicCare Team Leader Tomasa Morales, CatholicCare Eastern Area Senior Manager, Lisa Cook and RACV Executive General Manager Membership Services, Susan Allen.

\*High resolution images available by request

**Photo A**



**Photo B**

