

# Co-Designing an Evaluation of Settle-Well: An Intervention Program to Assist Students with Refugee Backgrounds

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- “Settle Well” is a philanthropy-funded school-based program for young refugees and asylum seekers at risk of disengagement from school and community life.
- This project constitutes a formal mixed-methods, co-designed evaluation of this innovative program with the aim to:
  - a) demonstrate its effectiveness in achieving its longer-term goals to enhance participants’ educational, social and communal engagement, and
  - b) its contribution to social cohesion and community harmony.



# CatholicCare Victoria

(Chris McNamara)

# CatholicCare Victoria

On the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021,

- Centacare Ballarat
- CatholicCare Melbourne/Gippsland
- CatholicCare Sandhurst

merged to form a new entity – CatholicCare Victoria;

A Strategic alignment of the three social service agencies of the three Catholic Dioceses and one Archdiocese in Victoria.

# CatholicCare – established in 1935

- Employment of Connie Moffit and Norma Parker;
- the first professionally qualified social workers in Australia;
- studied at the Catholic University of America, Washington;
- to prevent children from being institutionalised on the basis of poverty or disability

Removal of children from their families and homes was not a solution to the social problems of the era. With the right assistance and safety nets, families could and should stay together.

# Refugee and Asylum Seeker programs

- SETS – Settlement Engagement and Transition Support
- Asylum Seeker Support Program
- Job Readiness Program
- Settle-Well Geelong

# Settle Well

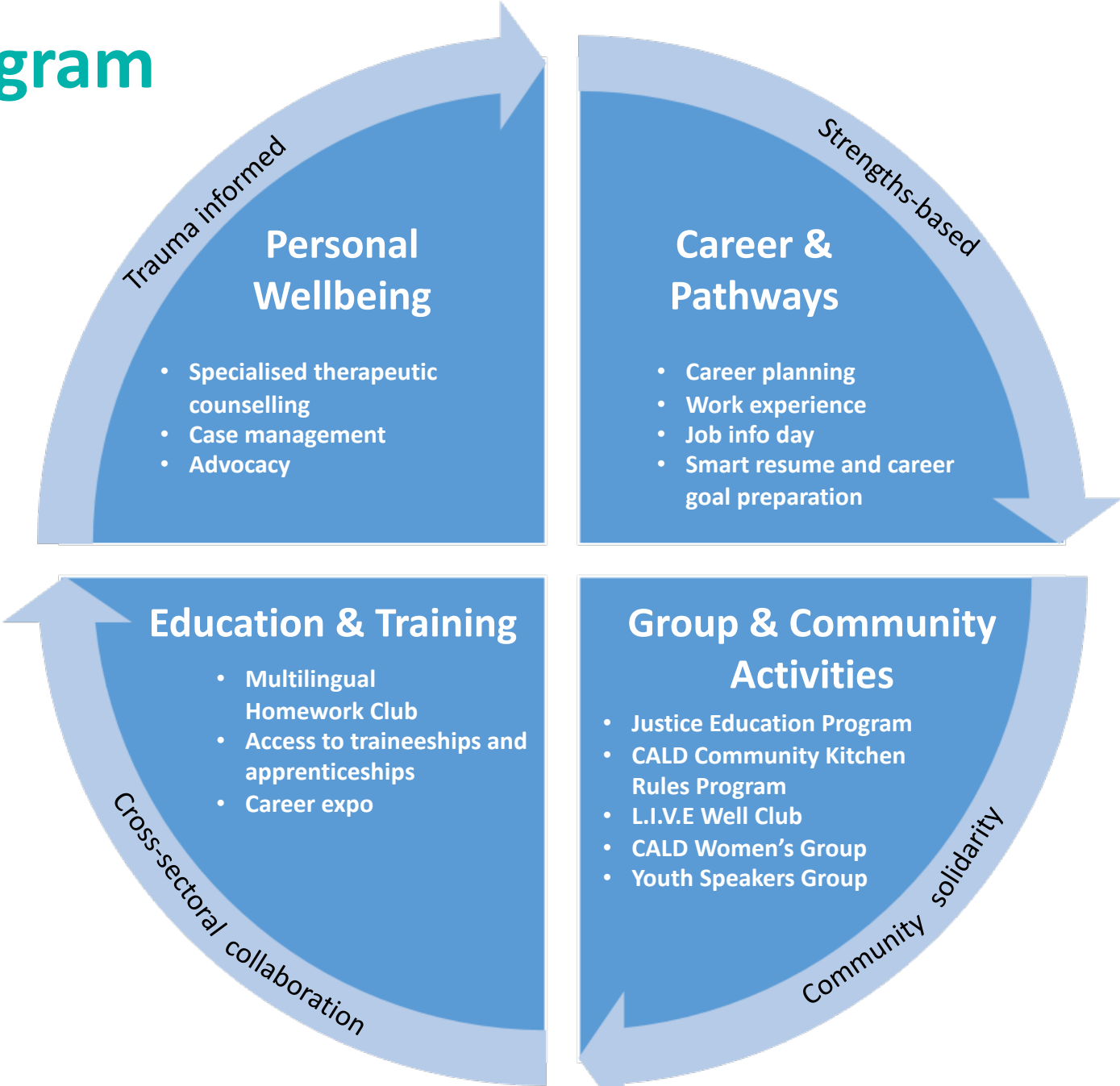
(Nestor Estampa – Originator and Program Facilitator)



# Geelong Settle Well Program

## Project Description:

Settle Well is a holistic, school-based program for vulnerable young refugees and asylum seekers at risk of disengagement from school and community life.



# Settle Well model and perspectives

Adopts co-location model by embedding the program on-site at two Geelong-based secondary colleges which have the highest number of enrolments of refugee youth.

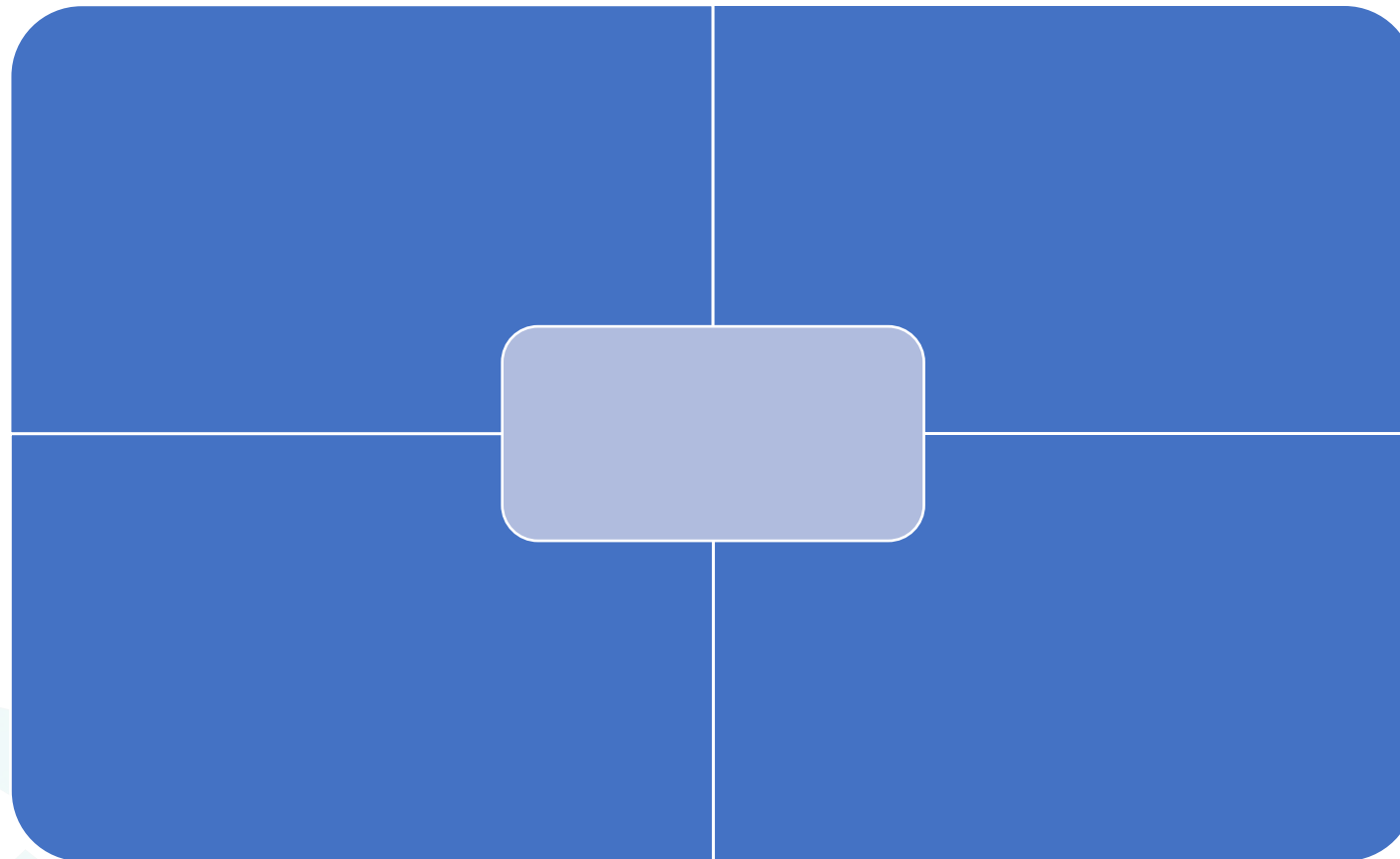


# The Evaluation

(Paul Chalkley – Youth Work)

# 5 Phase Evaluation

We adopted a co-designed, mixed-methods, 5-phase approach to the evaluation, which will occur in 2022 across 5 key phases.



# Reflections

(SettleWell, CatholicCare Victoria, ACU academics and Community Engagement)

# What worked?

## CCV + Settle Well

- Development of Project Plan
- Matching of Academics to Program
- Collaborative Approach
- Wonderful support from ACU Team
  - Jill & Vivien

## Academic Staff

- Undergraduate Student involvement
- Able to use research and discipline skills w/applied focus