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**CONNECT**  
**Connecting Communities and Schools**  
A project funded by the Community Support Fund

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## **1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report outlines the CONNECT Project's progress in relation to the agreed milestones established at the commencement of the funding period in June 2003 (see Attachment 1) This report covers the six month funding period between January and June 2006.

### **1.1 General Milestones**

- The Regional Steering Group (RSG) met twice during the reporting period. The lower than average number of meetings was due to a shorter than usual Term 1 and Steering Group members work commitments. In addition to the regular RSG meetings, a meeting was held with the CONNECT Conference Planning Committee, a working group made up of members from the RSG. The final RSG meeting for the CONNECT Project was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> June. The Project Officer will continue to consult with the group via email and telephone in regards to the final evaluation report.
- The evaluation strategy has been implemented and reports have been produced detailing key project activities and events, including participation numbers, participant satisfaction and future directions.
- Youth and Family Service Providers from the Cities of Knox, Monash, Manningham and Whitehorse have been involved in the planning and running of holiday programs and the CONNECT Conference.
- The CONNECT Project Officer has participated in the Youth Service Providers networks in Manningham, Monash and Knox.
- The CONNECT Project Officer presented to volunteers at the Young Peoples Resource Centre in Box Hill on CONNECT and working with CALD young people.

### **1.2 Peer Support Program**

- Four holiday program activities were conducted in the January holidays in collaboration with local youth and family support agencies.
- The CONNECT Conference was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May. The purpose of the conference was to celebrate the achievements of CONNECT over the last 5 years. Over 95 people, including funding body representatives, local politicians, school and agency staff and past and present CONNECT participants, attended on the day.
- Statistics reveal that approximately 600 students participated in CONNECT activities at schools, the CONNECT Conference and the holiday programs during the reporting period.
- In Terms 1 and 2 of 2006, the peer support program was operating in Doncaster Secondary College, Mount Waverley Secondary College and Rowville Secondary College.
- The sustainability model for CONNECT has been implemented at Ashwood College and Mullauna College.

- Student projects during this reporting period have included art & craft sessions to produce work for their displays at the CONNECT Conference, a multicultural recipe book, lunchtime games and in-class activities.
- The Project Officer was involved with the working group for an Eastern Region Sudanese Youth Expo coordinated by the Migrant Information Centre. The Expo presented information on finding a part-time job, managing money and activities available for young people. 27 young people and seven organisations participated in this Expo held during the March school holidays.
- The Project Officer presented to a group of VCAL students in Warburton about racism, tolerance and settlement issues for refugees and migrants.

### **1.3 Parent Support Program**

- During the reporting period the Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues published the 'Opening the School Gate' resource to assist schools to better meet the needs of CALD families. This comprehensive resource has been distributed to all CONNECT schools and relevant staff. Due to the timelines of the release of this document and its comprehensive nature, an additional resource as outlined in the Milestones will not be developed by the CONNECT Project.
- The Project Officer has met with staff at Milgate Primary School to assist them planning to continue offering the CALD parent information sessions. The school has committed resources in terms of funds and staff time to allow these very successful sessions to be sustainable.

## **2. OVERVIEW**

In the six month period between January and June 2006, CONNECT has continued to run peer support programs in the Cities of Knox, Manningham and Monash in collaboration with Doncaster Secondary College, Mount Waverley Secondary College and Rowville Secondary College.

The Sustainability Model (see Attachment 2) was successfully implemented at Ashwood and Mullauna Colleges last year and has continued to be monitored by the CONNECT Project Officer. Appropriate versions of the sustainability model are currently being negotiated and finalised with Mount Waverley and Doncaster Secondary Colleges.

In May 2006 a CONNECT Conference was held to celebrate the achievements of the CONNECT Project over the last 5 years. The conference also enabled a number of other objectives to be achieved. Firstly, it provided opportunities for CONNECT Leaders to build on their skills and training through workshops. Secondly, the conference allowed for leaders and participants to gain new ideas on what activities could be run in their respective schools through the launch of the CONNECT Activity Folder, and by facilitating activity sessions on the day. Finally, it provided a valuable opportunity for school staff, representatives from local youth and family agencies, past and present CONNECT Leaders and program participants to provide feedback on their experiences with CONNECT.

### **3. GENERAL MILESTONES**

#### **3.1 Regional Steering Group**

The members of the Regional Steering Group (RSG) have continued to meet on a regular basis during the reporting period. Representatives on the RSG are from the following organisations:

- Blackburn English Language School (BELS)
- City of Knox Youth Services
- City of Whitehorse Youth Services
- Eastern Region Migrant Youth Support Worker
- Department of Education and Training
- Department of Human Services
- Migrant Information Centre (Eastern Melbourne)
- School Focused Youth Service (Manningham and Maroondah)
- School Focused Youth Service (Monash)
- Victorian Multicultural Commission
- Victoria Police

The RSG met twice between January and June. However, regular progress reports were prepared and distributed to representatives. The CONNECT Conference Planning Committee, a working group consisting of members of the RSG, also met once during this period in preparation for the CONNECT Conference. The RSG's final meeting was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June. This meeting was an opportunity to thank all of the representatives for their support and guidance throughout the project. The Project Officer will continue to liaise with the members of the RSG via email and telephone in order to write the final evaluation report.

#### **3.2 Evaluation Strategy**

The Evaluation Strategy has been implemented monitoring key project activities and events through participant feedback in the form of focus groups and surveys. Reports have been written detailing the organisation of events, participant numbers, feedback, budget and future directions. This report reflects the results collected in the last six months.

#### **3.3 Local Youth & Family Networks**

During the reporting period the CONNECT Project Officer attended the youth and family support networks in each of the participating local government areas. Some of the representatives that participate in these established networks include:

- Knox Youth Service Providers Network
  - Anglicare
  - Centrelink
  - Chandler House CAMHS
  - Connections
  - Knox City Council Youth Services
  - Knox Community Health Service
  - Knox Division of GP

Regional Extended Family Services (REFS)  
Swinburne University  
Victoria Police  
Wantirna Secondary College

- Manningham Youth Issues Network  
Doncare  
Doncaster Secondary College  
Eastern Recreation and Leisure Services Inc.  
Gateway LLEN  
Heatherwood School  
Manningham Community Health Service  
Manningham/Maroondah School Focused Youth Service  
Manningham YMCA  
Manningham Youth and Family Services  
Templestowe College  
Victoria Police  
Warrandyte High School
  
- Monash Youth Service Providers Network  
City of Monash Youth and Family Services  
Centrelink  
Connections  
Eastcare  
Eastern Drug and Alcohol Service  
Harrison Youth and Family Services  
Holmesglen TAFE  
MonashLink Community Health Service  
Monash School Focused Youth Service  
Southern Ethnic Advisory and Advocacy Council (SEAAC)  
Victoria Police
  
- Whitehorse Youth Issues Network  
Anglicare Parentzone  
Box Hill Community Arts Centre  
Box Hill Institute of TAFE  
City of Whitehorse Youth Services  
Centacare  
Centrelink  
Harrison Community Services  
Reach Out for Kids  
REFS  
Terra Firma  
Young People's Resource Centre  
Whitehorse Community Health Service  
Whitehorse Manningham Library  
Whitehorse School Focused Youth Service  
Youth Substance Abuse Service (YSAS)

### 3.4 Additional Networks

During the reporting period the CONNECT Project Officer has also been an active member of the following networks:

- The Eastern Network for Teachers of Refugee Students, facilitated by the Transition Coordinator at BELS. The group aims to provide networking opportunities and information sharing on how best to support newly arrived refugee young people in mainstream secondary schools.
- The newly formed Primary Eastern Network Meeting for Teachers of Refugee Students also facilitated by the Transition Coordinator at BELS. This group serves the same purpose as the above-mentioned network however, it is specifically for Primary School teachers and youth and family service providers.
- The Refugee Young People and Transitions Working Group convened by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, a sub-group of the Victorian Settlement Planning Committee. This group has been focusing on transition pathways for newly arrived refugee young people and identifying gaps in current service provision.
- The Knox Homework Support Program Working Group. This group meets on a regular basis to discuss the program and has been involved in the development and launch of the project that aims to support the homework needs of newly arrived migrant and refugee young people in the City of Knox.

## **4. PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM**

### **4.1 Program Planning, Development and Implementation**

The relevant school staff and CONNECT Leaders, together with the CONNECT Project Officer are involved in all aspects of the planning, development and implementation of the peer support program in each school. This ensures that the programs are appropriate to the needs of the students and achievable within the school's resources regarding time tabling and staffing. The RSG members and relevant local youth and family support agencies are also consulted about the planning of activities.

### **4.2 Peer Support Program Operating at Secondary Schools**

The model for ongoing sustainability of the CONNECT project at both Ashwood and Mullauna Colleges was implemented in Terms 3 and 4 of 2005 (see 4.7). This model outlines how local youth and family support agencies can support the program without the coordination of the CONNECT Project Officer. Evaluations of the model consist of surveys and interviews with school staff and CONNECT participants. An evaluation of the entire project, including an evaluation of the sustainability model will be completed by December, 2006.

The peer support program has continued to operate at Doncaster Secondary College, Mount Waverley Secondary College and Rowville Secondary College.

Peer Support activities between January and June 2006 have included the following:

- 'The Great Race' activity was held at Mount Waverley Secondary College
- CONNECT photography and canvas making activities at Ashwood College
- CONNECT Banner making activities at Doncaster Secondary College
- A map of cultural Australia jigsaw puzzle at Mount Waverley Secondary College
- Photography and collage activities at Rowville Secondary College
- Workshops on global citizenship, empathy and motivation for CONNECT participants and past and present leaders
- Development and launch of the CONNECT Activities Folder at the CONNECT Conference
- CONNECT Leader led activity sessions using the activity book were ran at the CONNECT Conference for all the student participants.

### **4.3 The CONNECT Conference 2006**

The CONNECT conference was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2006. The objectives of the conference were to:

- Acknowledge and celebrate the work the CONNECT Project has achieved during the last five years
- Provide opportunities for CONNECT Leaders to increase their communication and leadership skills
- Gain feedback from participants that will be incorporated into the final evaluation report.

The conference was attended by over 95 participants, including 70 students, their teachers, youth and family support agency staff, members of the Regional Steering

Committee, representatives from the Department of Victorian Communities and the local member for Mitcham, Tony Robinson, who officially opened the Conference (see Attachment 3 for Attendance List).

The Conference was officially opened by Tony Robinson, Member for Mitcham who spoke about the importance of youth participation in the community. This was followed by a presentation from David Tay (a past CONNECT Leader from Doncaster Secondary School and Manningham Young Citizen of the Year, 2006) on what it means to be a leader. Lastly, Robert Colla (Principal, Blackburn English Language School) presented on the impact of settlement and attending mainstream schooling for migrant and refugee young people, and what the CONNECT Leaders could do to best help these students settle into their new environments.

Also included in the day's activities were sessions for the students on 'Global Citizenship' and 'Empathy and Motivation' conducted by an external facilitator. These sessions provided students with the opportunity to further enhance their leadership and communication skills.

There were four separate evaluation sessions conducted on the day, one each for: school staff involved in running CONNECT at their schools; agency staff who had been involved in the project; past and present CONNECT Leaders; and students who have been participants in the project. The feedback gained will be used to write the final CONNECT Evaluation Report, to be completed by December 2006.

Finally, the Conference allowed the Project Officer to launch the CONNECT Activity Book, the most recent resource developed in the project. A copy of the resource was given to all teachers and agency staff and will also be put on the MIC website. In order for the students and teachers to gain ideas on how to use the resource, activity sessions were run in the afternoon using games from the book.

#### **4.4 Professional Training**

- In June the Project Officer presented on the CONNECT Project and strategies for working with newly arrived migrant and refugee young people to volunteers at the Young People's Resource Centre in Box Hill.
- The Migrant Information Centre ran Chinese cultural training sessions for school staff and youth and family service providers in the City of Monash on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February and the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May respectively.

#### **4.5 CONNECT Leader Training**

Students from Mullauna, Mount Waverley and Rowville Secondary Colleges were trained as CONNECT leaders in December 2005. As a result there was no CONNECT Leader training held during this reporting period.

Discussions have been held with Ashwood College and Doncaster Secondary College regarding the training of new CONNECT Leaders to decide whether or not training would be conducted during this reporting period. It was decided at Ashwood College that the current leaders would retain their role until the end of the year, and at Doncaster Secondary College additional meetings with the ESL staff were needed to plan the sustainability of the project before any training was done.

## **4.6 Student Projects**

The student projects in Term 2 have been very successful in building team spirit and self confidence among the students involved in CONNECT. As Term 1 was very short, due to the Commonwealth Games, no student projects were initiated. However in Term 2, in the lead up to the CONNECT Conference all schools planned and created art and craft displays for the conference as their major projects. The following activities were conducted during Term 2:

- Ashwood College: Photography and canvas artwork
- Doncaster Secondary College: Banner and canvas artwork
- Mount Waverley Secondary College: Cultural jigsaw making and canvas artwork
- Mullauna College: The international recipe book, which has been an ongoing project for the CONNECT Leaders and participants at the college, was completed together with banner-making and canvas artwork
- Rowville College: Photography, collage making and canvas artwork.

In addition two CONNECT Leaders from each school planned and prepared for the student led activity sessions run at the conference.

## **4.7 School Holiday Program**

In the January school holidays four activities were run in collaboration with the Family Support Worker at the MIC. The activities are outlined below:

### **Mini Golf and a trip to Bimbimbie**

- The first day of the program was an excursion to 'Puttz' Glow in the Dark Mini-golf in Knox and the Bimbimbie Fauna and Picnic Park in Mount Burnett on 6th January 2006. Four male and ten female participants attended the day. Seven facilitators attended, including four staff from the MIC and three volunteers.

### **Movies and Picnic**

- The second day of the program consisted of an excursion to the movies at Eastland Shopping Centre and a picnic at Ringwood Lake on 10th January 2006. Seven male and nine female participants attended the day. Six facilitators attended including, four staff from the MIC and two volunteers. For almost half of the group this was the first visit to a cinema. The highlight of the day included unstructured activities at the lake which provided an opportunity for the participants to mix amongst different cultural groups and ages.

### **Girls Only Day**

- Fourteen girls participated in this session on 13th January 2006, which consisted of cooking and craft activities. A staff member from the Young Peoples Resource Centre, the CONNECT Project Officer and staff and volunteers from the MIC facilitated the day's program.

### **Craft and Sports Day**

- On 27th January 5 male and seventeen female participants attended the final day of the holiday program. Seven facilitators also attended, including three MIC staff and four volunteers. The day consisted of morning craft activities including painting and

puppet making. After lunch the participants and leaders were bused to InSportz in Bayswater where the volunteers from the centre had set up indoor beach volley ball, basketball, soccer and cricket.

As Term 1 was shorter than usual and the commonwealth games were on during the school holidays, no program was run during the March school holidays. However the Project Officer was involved with the Sudanese Youth Expo. The Expo looked at finding a part-time job, managing your money and activities available for young people. 27 young people and seven organisations attended the Expo.

## **4.8 CONNECT Sustainability Model**

### **4.8.1 Mullauna College**

Mullauna College has been implementing the CONNECT Sustainability Model since the beginning of 2005. This year the CONNECT program has involved;

- Sixteen Leaders were trained by the CONNECT Project Officer in December 2005 and they have been meeting on a regular basis with the designated CONNECT staff member at the school.
- Mullauna College was successful with an application for School Focused Youth Service funding to assist with running CONNECT activities at the school.
- The CONNECT Project Officer has visited the school and been to a number of leader's meetings to assess the success of the sustainability model.
- As the longest running CONNECT school, Mullauna College students were also enthusiastically involved in the organisation of the CONNECT Conference. Five meetings were held at the school in preparation for the conference.
- Additional activities conducted by the CONNECT Leaders throughout the reporting period have included:
  - Morning Teas
  - Lunches
  - Cross-age tutoring
  - Playing board games at lunchtimes
  - Sporting activities e.g. soccer and basketball
  - Assisting with Harmony Day Concert - fundraising and participation
  - Collating some more recipes for the updated version of the multicultural recipe book (2006 publication available next term)
  - Assisting with cooking demonstrations (Sudanese and Cambodian)
  - Giving school tours to new ESL students
  - Regular meetings
  - Working on the banner and other artwork for the CONNECT CONFERENCE
  - Attending the CONNECT Conference

#### **4.8.2 Ashwood College**

The school has been working under the sustainability model from Term 3, 2005.

- The current group of CONNECT leaders were trained in May 2005 by the CONNECT Project Officer together with a staff member from the City of Monash Youth and Family Services, who does outreach work at Ashwood College.
- The CONNECT Project Officer has visited the school each term and the school representative has completed a survey regarding the sustainability model. Feedback has been very positive, although communication amongst staff regarding the CONNECT program appears to be one of the main difficulties at the college.
- CONNECT activities at Ashwood College during the reporting period have included a morning tea and a lunchtime *UNO* cards session as well as the craft sessions run in the lead up to the conference.
- The CONNECT Project Officer will meet with the staff at the school as well as a worker from Monash Youth and Family Services to plan the recruitment and training of new CONNECT leaders.

#### **4.8.3 Mount Waverley Secondary College**

Mount Waverley Secondary College was unable to trial the sustainability model from Term 1, 2006, due to their strong involvement in the preparation of the CONNECT Conference. However, due to a lack of structural support for the teacher responsible for the CONNECT project, in terms of time allocation and resources, it is likely the program will not continue in 2007.

#### **4.9 Educational Enhancement Program**

In the past six months there have been opportunities for parents to contact school staff for information about issues such as their children's progress, school curriculum, extra curricular activities and future pathways. There were also opportunities for young people to receive additional support with their studies. These opportunities are discussed below.

- The Eastern Region Migrant Youth Support Worker based at Whitehorse City Council has been running a successful homework support group weekly at Box Hill Library. The CONNECT Project Officer has been promoting the group to CONNECT leaders, ESL students and parent groups.
- Knox Youth Services has been funded by School Focused Youth Services to provide a Homework Support Program for newly arrived migrant and refugee young people in the City of Knox. The CONNECT Project Officer has been involved in the working group together with local youth and family agencies and has been promoting the group to CONNECT leaders, and newly arrived students at Rowville Secondary College.
- The Migrant Information Centre has applied for funding from Volunteering Australia to expand the current Knox Homework Support Program to the Rowville Library. The outcome of this application should be available by July 2006.

## **5. PARENT SUPPORT PROGRAM**

### **5.1 Parent Support Program Operating at Primary and Secondary Schools**

In the six months between January and June, the CONNECT Project Officer supported the following parent support activities:

- Meeting with staff at Milgate Primary School to assist them to continue to run the CALD parent information sessions. The school has committed resources in terms of funds and staff time to allow these successful sessions to be sustainable.
- The Migrant Information Centre held a series of sessions on the Victorian education system and parenting programs for the Chinese community in the City of Monash. A total of 187 parents attended the sessions with a considerable number of parents coming from the original Mount Waverley Secondary College Chinese Parents Group.

### **5.2 Links to Local Youth and Family Support Services**

During this reporting period local youth and family support service providers presented their services and conducted workshops for CALD parents on the following occasions:

- The “You and Your Community” Chinese Community Service Expo was held at Knox City Council in May with over 80 people attending to hear presentations on services and receive information from the 14 participating service providers, including Knox Youth Services.
- The Migrant Information Centre has received funding to conduct information sessions on the Victorian education system for Chinese parents living in the City of Manningham. These sessions will start in Term 3. A component of the project will also involve an expo of community agencies, including youth and family services for the Chinese speaking community.

In addition, a wide range of local youth and family support agencies have given their support to the CONNECT Program through their participation in school holiday programs, the CONNECT Conference, the Regional Steering Group and being involved in the planning and facilitation of peer support activities.

### **5.3 Resource Kits**

The original milestones that were established at the commencement of the funding period in June 2003 contained a Resource Kit. This kit was for distribution to schools containing “how to” information about providing information to CALD parents about the education system and encouraging their participation in schools and was to be developed in consultation with the Regional Steering Group and LAG’s in 2004. It was decided that this resource would be developed to complement CMYI’s ‘Opening the School Gate’ originally due for release in August 2005. This document was designed for schools and looks at how to engage parents in the education system.

The resource was released in April 2006 and distributed at the CONNECT Conference to all the CONNECT schools and local youth and family agencies present. Due to the

timelines of the release of this document and its comprehensive nature, an additional resource as outlined in the Milestones will not be developed by the CONNECT Project.

## **6. MILESTONE ACHIEVEMENTS**

This is the final Progress Report for the CONNECT Project. Therefore, it is important to acknowledge the achievements of the CONNECT Project against both the original and amended milestones. These achievements have been outlined in the above report and the last six Progress Reports since 2003. The final Evaluation Report including successes and learnings from the last five years of the project will be submitted to the Community Support Fund by December 2006 as agreed in the 'Terms and Conditions of Grant'.

## Attachment 1

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### CONNECT Connecting Communities and Schools

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#### COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND (CSF)

- **Milestones for the CSF funding over the next three years**

<b>GENERAL</b>		
<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Establishment of Regional Steering Group (RSG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members to include representatives from local government, DHS, MIC, Department of Education and Training, School Focused Youth Service, key youth and family support services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• January 2003</li> </ul>
Develop evaluation strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Officer to draft evaluation strategy for review by RSG.</li> <li>• Evaluation Strategy finalised and implementation commenced</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• February 2003</li> </ul>
Project Officer will attend the local Youth Service Provider networks in each active local government area to network with agencies regarding the program implementation. <sup>1</sup>	Regularly attend local Youth Service Providers networks in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knox</li> <li>• Manningham</li> <li>• Monash</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly or bi-monthly depending on the networks meeting schedule.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Amended from 'Establishment of Local Action Groups (LAGS)'. In this Attachment all references to the LAG have been substituted by either the Regional Steering Group, local agencies or the Project Officer. This is due to changes outlined in the body of the report (see 3.3). A \* denotes where the reference to LAGs have been amended.

<b>PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM</b>		
<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Program planning, development and implementation <sup>2</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Officer* identifies appropriate youth and family support agencies and migrant community groups to support and expand the peer support model.</li> <li>• RSG* develops and oversees the implementation and evaluation of the identified roles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant agencies identified on an as needs basis.</li> <li>• Monthly progress reports and meetings of the RSG.</li> </ul>
Peer support program operating at secondary schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ashwood College, Doncaster Secondary College, Mount Waverley Secondary College and Rowville Secondary College</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2003 – 3 schools</li> <li>• 2004 - 4 schools</li> <li>• 2005 – 4 schools</li> <li>• January – June 2006<sup>3</sup></li> <li>- Peer support in 2 schools</li> <li>- Supporting sustainability at 3 schools</li> </ul>
Professional Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct professional development about the settlement issues facing young people and their parents from CALD backgrounds and the peer support training program and model to school staff.<sup>4</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One session per semester for participating schools</li> </ul>
Leader Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 days, run consecutively or split over 2 weeks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Once a year at each participating school</li> </ul>
Student Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Based in school or local community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6-8 week timeline, projects to be identified in consultation with school (Principal, staff and Leaders)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum 1 per year per school</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> The Project Officer will attend local Youth Service Network meetings rather than convene Local Action Groups (see 3.3).

<sup>3</sup> In the final six months of the CONNECT Project from January to July 2006 the Project Officer will be running peer support in two schools and supporting the sustainability model in three schools.

<sup>4</sup> School staff at CONNECT schools can be linked into training programs offered by the Migrant Information Centre targeting education professionals.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For example, developing a community/school garden, creating a multicultural calendar displaying student artwork, designing a mural, entering a local sporting competition, holding a market day or forum, planning holiday recreational programs</li> <li>• Projects supported by youth and family support agency staff and migrant support groups</li> </ul>	
Links to local youth and family support services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth and family support service providers to present their services to students and conduct workshops on relevant issues, e.g. self-esteem and coping strategies</li> <li>• Workshop/presentations to be decided by RSG*</li> <li>• RSG* to identify other areas of need and respond by conceptualising, developing and leading implementation of new initiatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum 2 sessions per year at each participating school</li> </ul>
School holiday program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreational activities during school holidays held in conjunction with local youth organisations, including local Council</li> <li>• Holiday program to incorporate relevant personal development workshops</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One activity per school holiday for participating schools</li> </ul>
Educational enhancement program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities for parents to contact school staff for information on their children's progress, curriculum, school procedures, extra curricular activities and future pathways etc.</li> <li>• Opportunities for young people to receive additional support with their studies and extra curricular activities etc</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number and format of sessions/activities to be determined by RSG, local agencies and relevant school staff*</li> </ul>

<b>PARENT SUPPORT PROGRAM</b>		
<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Parent support program operating at primary and secondary schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secondary: Mullauna College, Doncaster Secondary College, Mount Waverley Secondary College, Rowville Secondary College (2005)</li> <li>• Primary: Parkhill Primary School, Milgate Primary School, Rowville Primary School (2005)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2003 – 3 schools</li> <li>• 2004 – 3 schools</li> <li>• 2005 – 5 schools</li> </ul>
Information on school systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct information sessions for CALD parents about the school and Victorian education system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One session at each participating school per year<sup>5</sup></li> </ul>
Parent involvement in the school and local community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth and family service providers and CONNECT Project Officer* to work with school and parents to identify best practice for involvement of CALD parents in decision making process</li> <li>• Project Officer, RSG and local service providers* to provide ongoing support to CALD parents to participate in school and local community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CONNECT Project Officer, school staff and RSG* to identify activities within first two months of school year</li> </ul>
Links to local youth and family support services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth and family support service providers to present their services to parents and to conduct culturally appropriate parenting programs to support families</li> <li>• Workshop/presentations – to be determined by the RSG*</li> <li>• Project Officer and RSG* to identify other areas of need and respond by conceptualising, developing and leading implementation of new initiatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum two sessions per year in each LGA</li> </ul>

<sup>5</sup> Amended from 'two sessions per school per year'.

Resource Kits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Officer in consultation with RSG *to develop a model and resource kit for distribution to schools that provides 'how to' advice about:</li> <li>• Providing information to CALD parents about the education system, and</li> <li>• Encouraging participation of CALD parents in schools, e.g. school council.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• April 2006<sup>6</sup></li> </ul>
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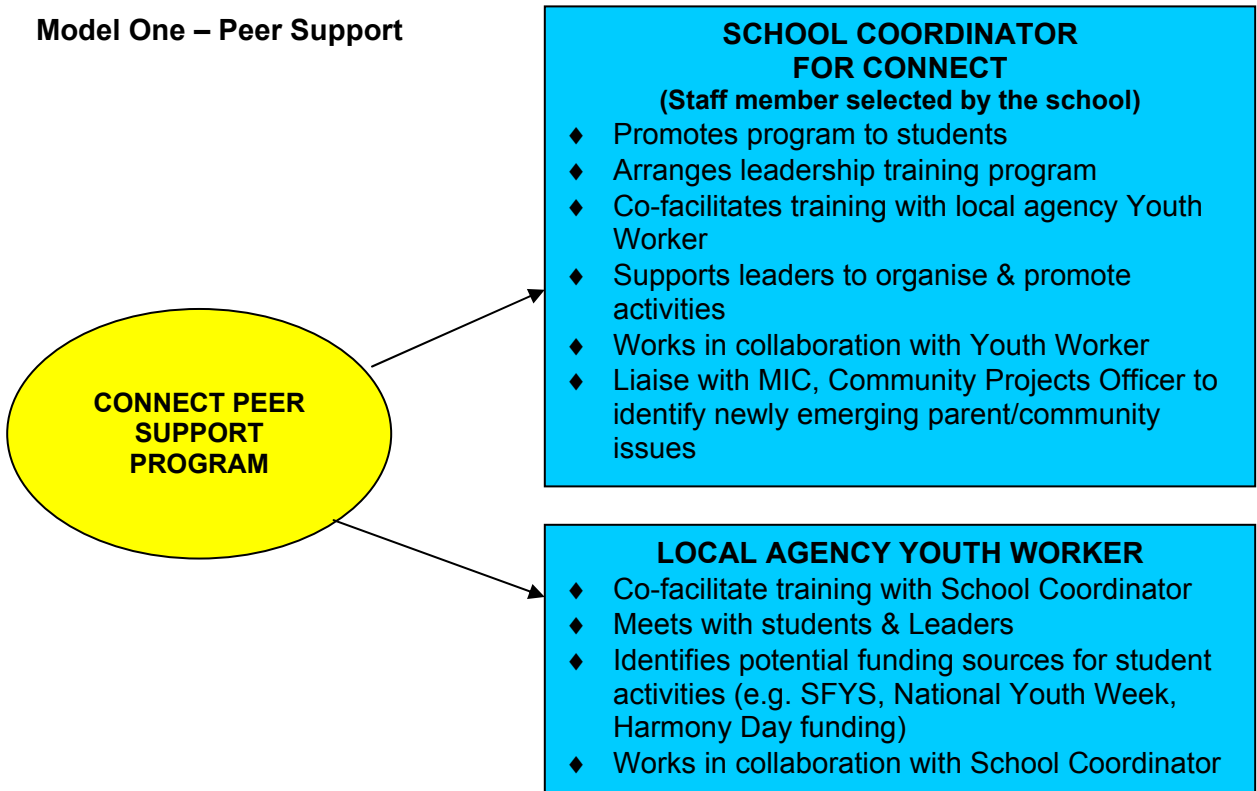
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<sup>6</sup> Amended from February 2006

Attachment 2

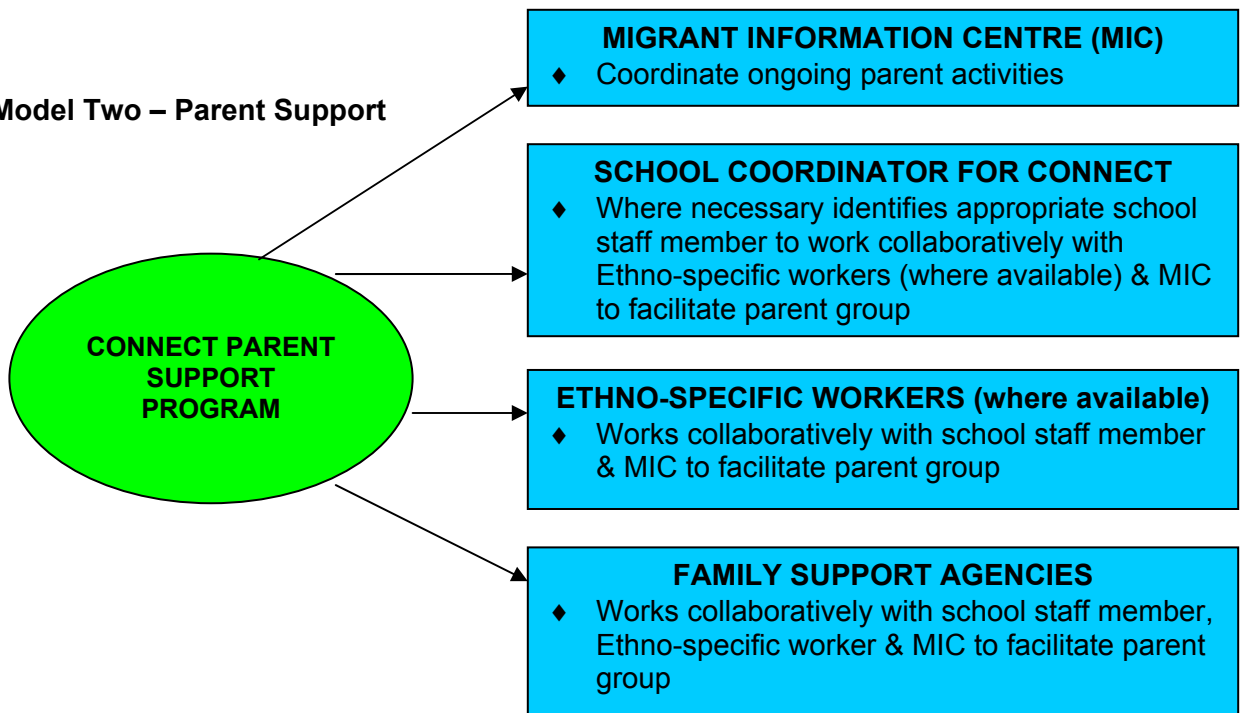
**SUSTAINABILITY MODEL FOR CONNECT**

**Model One – Peer Support**



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**Model Two – Parent Support**



### **Attachment 3**

## **CONNECT CONFERENCE 11<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2006 ATTENDANCE LIST**

### **SCHOOLS**

Ashwood College  
Doncaster Secondary College  
Mount Waverley Secondary College  
Mullauna College  
Rowville Secondary College

### **REPRESENTATIVES FROM**

Blackburn English Language School  
Centacare Mitcham  
Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues  
Department of Victorian Communities  
Knox Youth Services  
Manningham/Maroondah School Focused Youth Service  
Manningham YMCA  
Maribynong City Council  
Monash Youth and Family Services  
Victorian Government  
Victoria Police  
Whitehorse Youth Services