
DATE: 25 November 2008

Writing For Life Project Launch Media Release

Her Excellency Professor Maria Bashir, Governor of NSW will officially launch “ Writing for Life” Project - *the bilingual, English/ Arabic Stories Book* - at the Library of Campbelltown Public School at 11 am on Tuesday 25 of November 2008.

“Writing for Life” is a joint project between Campbelltown Public School, Macarthur Diversity Services (MDSI) and the Dept of Education & Training Campbelltown Office. It was initiated by Campbelltown Arabic Women’s Support Group.

The project aimed to provide Refugee and Migrant Women from Arabic speaking backgrounds with many tears and much laughter, it gave them the opportunity to share their feelings and life experiences in their own language, or in English as well as reinforcing the important of Multiculturalism in our Society.

The settlement process has not been easy for many of the women or their families. The “Writing for Life” project has provided an avenue for these women to share their challenges, successes and their suffering. We hope the project will be a model for other women’s groups to follow.

The” Writing for Life” project is an outstanding example of how community organisations, schools and community members can work together for the benefit of all. It is a living, human history book and can be used by students to grow in the knowledge of their local community. For years to come, primary students can learn to read the bilingual book with mum, while high school students can critique these unique stories.

The project was funded by the Equity Portfolio DET - South Western Sydney Region and Campbelltown City Council. It was facilitated by Sana Al-Ahmar, Family Settlement Worker and Najla Abou-Halloun, Arabic Community Support Worker, from MDSI and Ha Nguyen Community Information Officer from the Department of Education & Training Campbelltown Office

Campbelltown Public School has hosted and supported the Campbelltown Arabic Women Support Group for the last two years. The group has grown from a few members to a strong and sustainable women group. “Writing for life stories reminds us all of how lucky we are in Australia, where freedom of speech is encouraged and women rights are recognized and valued”. Said Ms Darrelle Porteous , Principal of Campbelltown PS