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SHARE

Supporting Australia's Refugees

19 June 2014

Loreto Normanhurst in Sydney has been delighted to welcome Ambreen Shah onto its staff. Ambreen will work at the school during term two as part of Work and Welcome, a program that was initiated in Queensland. Last year a number of staff responded to the invitation to make a fortnightly contribution in order to offer a term's employment to a migrant or refugee. With Loreto Normanhurst's participation, the program is, for the first time, being implemented outside Queensland. Here in New South Wales the program works in partnership with the House of Welcome in Carramar. The House of Welcome works with refugees and asylum seekers who are not eligible for housing or financial or medical support and are therefore the most vulnerable refugees.



Ambreen Shah working at Loreto Normanhurst's library

The Work and Welcome program provides meaningful work in a supportive workplace, giving people the opportunity to use and develop their skills, gain work experience in Australia and help them develop the confidence and skills to move into the wider workplace. It also provides a wonderful opportunity to experience a welcoming community and have the opportunity to meet and work with a range of people, to make connections and friendships, and become familiar with Australian workplace culture.

Ambreen came to Australia from Pakistan in 2010 with her husband and three children. She was a Science teacher in Karachi and has a great interest in teaching primary children as well as working in libraries. Since arriving in Australia she has undertaken various courses to enable her to re-connect with her work in the education sector. Ambreen spent the first two weeks in Administration and for the remainder of the term she is working in the Learning Resource Centre. As a result of her experience at Loreto, Ambreen is now planning to enrol in a Diploma in Librarianship through TAFE.

"This is my first job in Australia, I am really enjoying my time at Loreto Normanhurst. I have learnt a great deal and have had the opportunity to work with many different people and have new experiences at work." Ambreen said.

We wish Ambreen and her family much blessing and peace as they continue that long journey of settling in Australia.

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