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A Different View
New South Wales, Australia

Description of the project including proposed activities and timeline - This proposal for one of the Davis Projects for Peace grants, involves a series of presentations given to school students in New South Wales high schools by individuals who have sought asylum in Australia. These talks will include refugees from diverse backgrounds and will aim to increase the awareness of this audience cohort regarding what it is to be a refugee and what it means to have fled one's country. Given the time frame provided, between forty minutes to one hour, a single speaker format is the most appropriate. This will provide the students with the greatest possible chance of understanding the individual's story. The speaker's explanations will be followed by a segment where students will be able to ask questions. Subsequently, the talk will be complemented by a culinary experience. The food tasting will ultimately allow the students to make the connection between a specific food and the culture it comes from. This program will take place during the University of Sydney's break from lectures in June/July 2019 but will not include the two weeks from the 6th until the 22nd of July, which are the NSW July school holidays.

Component one - Speakers - The four speakers that I have contacted and received confirmations from have been reached through community groups, asylum seeker centres and refugee advocacy organisations. I have mainly sought contact with individuals who have previously undertaken advocacy work or an advocacy program, as they have a greater level of official training which will allow them to undertake such a project. In supporting the speakers, they will each be provided with 3 optional psychologist sessions via skype. This is fundamental aspect of the duty of care for this project. If the speakers were to experience trauma as a result of retelling their stories, that would contradict the ultimate aim of this project, which is to enhance peace. The speakers involved in my project will be Ghulam Abbas, Sayed Hussainizada, Mohammad Junaid and Sejun Selvens.

Component two - Schools - Contact has been made with schools regarding their interest in *A Different View* being implemented during the months of June and July. So far, 9 schools have shown interest and have given possible times within which it may occur. These schools include Newcastle High School, Lambton High School, Merewether High School, Callaghan College, Francis Greenway High School, Warners Bay High School, St Joseph's High School, Morisset High School and Lorient Novalis School. I have largely targeted schools from the Newcastle region, an area which, in comparison with bigger cities, lacks cultural diversity with only 9% of households using a language other than English to communicate². Please find attached their written expressions of interest.

Component three - Food - As *A Different View* is based around the issue of refugees in Australia, food will be sourced from associations that employ refugees as cooks and staff. Parliament on King, a Sydney based organisation, have confirmed that they can provide food from a range of cultures including Afghani, Sri Lankan and Rohingya.

Budget Notes – Non-student expenses are comprised of the speaker's travel and accommodation (\$220 and \$1500 respectively), the culinary experience (\$2280 in total for the projected talks in 12 schools) and the speaker's honorarium (\$100 per day therefore 1200 in total). In addition to this, \$250 has been allocated to attain the four working with children checks^s required for the speakers, \$80 for a retractable exhibition banner, \$500 for Public Liability Insurance and Volunteer Worker Insurance, while \$2200 has been allocated for psychologist services that may be required by the speakers through the Associated Counsellors & Psychologists organization of Sydney. Finally, \$290 has been allocated for administrative costs such as setting *A Different View* up as an incorporated association while \$880 has been allocated as a contingency sum. In terms of the student expenses I have allocated \$500 to account for my travel and lodging as well as \$100 to cover the added insurance to my parent's car allowing me to transport the food and the speakers.

Short term and long-term goals - Regarding the objectives of this project, the short-term goal is to increase awareness within a particular age groups of the challenges that refugees face. By participating in *A Different View*, students would have had personal contact with someone who had experienced the hardship of seeking asylum in Australia, something which is so often stereotyped and misunderstood. Additionally, through the culinary segment of the talks, students will be able to have new experiences and potentially make the connection between a food that they enjoyed tasting and a foreign culture. In the long term, the objective of this project for the participants is to obtain a greater understanding of what it means to have fled one's country. I believe that this understanding will not only be relevant in their interactions with the community, with other students while still in high school and university but also when they join the work force or travel. They will be more adept at identifying and combatting racist and xenophobic stereotypes as they will have an increased understanding of the reality of being a refugee and subsequently being a minority in Australia.

Continuation - In terms of the direction of this project, an ultimate long-term goal would be securing the support of the Department of Education or an Australian multicultural organization. This would allow the program to expand and travel to areas which are more rural, or which have themselves been affected by xenophobic or racist events, such as protests or riots. It is for this reason that *A Different View* will be registered as a not for profit incorporated association, to allow it the possibility of continuing into the future. Through the long-term continuation of this project, the Davis Projects for Peace will be instrumental in making change regarding the issue of prejudice in Australia.

Indicators of success - A survey will be implemented in order to understand the impact of the program on the opinions of the participants. A questionnaire will be sent to class teachers to be filled out before and after the talk, by participating students. Data will be collected regarding the potential for an individual's opinion to be changed through programs of this type and what those changes are. The survey will be anonymous, and participation will be at the discretion of the school and the class teacher. The classes that choose to participate in the survey, however, can have their results graphed and returned to the school as a form of feedback.