



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment
and Workplace Relations



Sideways: when the direct approach won't work

2 December 2010



Also known as...

Engaging young people with refugee backgrounds and post traumatic mental health issues in school completion and successful transition to higher education, training and employment

What's Sideways?

- An approach
- Probably more relevant to NDCOs than uni DLOs

You don't have to do it yourself 😊

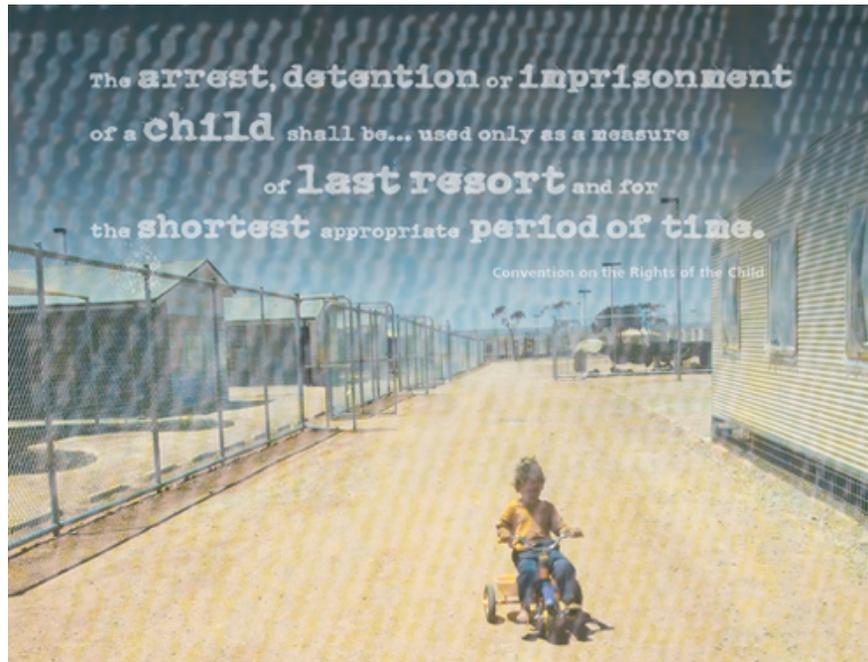
- **Go easy on yourself, you don't need to be a cultural expert – just as you're not an expert on every disability**
- **There are experts in the community who want what you know in order to help their community. Help them to help you reach your objectives**
- **Is this any different from how you might work with specialist organisations for particular disabilities???**

Being a refugee isn't a disability, but...

- Higher levels of mental health issues due to PTSD than the general community
- High levels of learning disabilities than the general community (depending on background)
- Some evidence of higher levels of mild intellectual impairment perhaps due to nutritional deprivation at critical childhood development points.
- BUT – extremely resourceful or they wouldn't be alive!

Monica recommends...

A
Last
Resort



http://www.hreoc.gov.au/human_rights/children_detention_report/index.html

Rhyme - Not Crime





National Disability Coordination Officer Program

Multigrain



Muslim Girls Kollektive





Next step...

The parents of course!

via trusted community leaders



Advice from Community Leaders

- **Don't be too direct**
- **Teach them what's available and how to advise community members – especially parents**
- **Be careful with branding**
- **Prove you are genuine and reliable!**

Making the sideways approach work in the post secondary environment

- **Know your student body racial/ethnic profile**
- **Learn a bit about the recent history and issues of source countries and refugee communities in Australia**
- **What other parts of the institution can you liaise with? Careers office? Multifaith service? Student counsellors? Be creative!**
- **Talk to counsellors about disability and refugee issues – maybe organise some training?**



You don't have to go it alone!

- FASTT agencies in each state – educate each other!
- FECCA agencies
- Migrant Resource Centres
- State Government Multicultural Affairs agency/department
- NEDA agencies in each state



Questions?



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