



ISANA Awards 2019

There are two programs that are of great benefit to international students: Undertaking a field education placement at the Uni SA Community Centre and the PSW (Social Work) Mentoring project. A lot of international students do not get good placement opportunities as they do not have a driver's license. At UniSA community outreach centre at Magill, international students get great learning opportunities as they get a chance to undertake many projects that tackle various social issues. It also gives international students an opportunity to liaise with external organizations to develop their professional social work identity and to understand social work in an Australian context.

At the Uni SA Community Centre international students have the opportunity to work on: The Social Work Mentoring Project, Seeds of Affinity (supporting women released from prison to help them reintegrate back into society to and to build stronger relationships with their children, family and friends so they do not reoffend, the food insecurity project for students who are at risk of not getting any food lunch the Aboriginal Pathways project which aims to increase enrolments into social work of Aboriginal students, a domestic violence project which aims to interview women with a lived experience of Domestic Violence and to use this information to empower these women and other women to make changes and take control of their life . This project also aims to use these narratives to help workers understand the needs of women with lived experience of domestic violence. Another project that international students have been involved in is with homeless people and those who live in community housing estates. This project aims to work with these tenants to consult with them about their housing, social and psychological needs and to encourage them to be more engaged with their local community. In addition to these projects, international students have also been involved in a digital community awareness program on campus addressing the issue of alcohol misuse on campus by university students with a goal of harm minimisation. Another project in the community centre was a living library that used a strengths-based narrative therapy to interview elderly people at aged care and community centres. These interviews were aimed at highlighting the life strengths of elderly people so that their social isolation and other problems could be tackled from a strengths perspective and their narrative could be presented positively. This project gave international students on placement a great opportunity to network with external organizations and key stakeholders along with a chance to get involved in direct practice. Volunteering in an external agency opportunity was given to students in community Centre. students got a chance to volunteer in the Puddle Jumpers once a week, and this helped the students to understand and connect with vulnerable children and families, it was a good chance to promote social inclusion, encourage respect and tolerance for social diversity.





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All of these projects have given international students real life, challenging work integrated learning opportunities that international students may not otherwise have been exposed to due to language and cultural differences and limited opportunities due to not having a drivers' license.

The Manager of the Community Centre, Sophie Diamandi has developed with students a mentoring program that provides support academically, socially, culturally and with a strong focus on mental health and well being for newly arrived international social work students specifically. This program helps them navigate the academic requirements and also helps them to understand how social work is operationalised in Australia. The mentoring program links them to a mentor and helps to build social connections to other students and helps to alleviate stress and anxiety through the resettlement process this in effect reduces social isolation and helps build resilience for international students. This program also introduces new enrolling international students to Australian culture and more specifically Aboriginal Australian culture and this is based on feedback from previous years from other international students. In 2020 it will be the third time this social work mentoring program has been delivered. Feedback from international students who have participated as mentees or mentors has been very positive.

CLOSING DATE: completed applications must be received by the ISANA Secretariat by 5.00pm EDT on 4 November 2019. Please submit an electronic copy of the application via the link on the website.

The Selection Panel will be comprised of ISANA National Council members and will meet within two weeks of the closing date to review the applications. The decision of the panel is final.

The winning program will be announced at the ISANA 2019 National Conference dinner.

