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media release

Refugee Week 2016  
Celebrating Diversity Art Exhibition  
24 June – 3 July

Macarthur Diversity Services Initiative, in partnership with Campbelltown Arts Centre is Celebrating Diversity and Showcasing the refugee experience through art and cultural expression.

The theme “With Courage Let us combine” reminds us that, while a refugee’s journey begins with danger, it also begins with hope. Refugees flee their homelands not only because they fear persecution, but also because they have hope in finding freedom from persecution, and safety and security for themselves and their families; they hope to be given a chance to start a new life and recover from past trauma.

As ordinary people living peaceful lives, we rarely have to put our courage to the test. Refugees are ordinary people, too, except that through no fault of their own, they find themselves in extraordinary circumstances. As such, they are often required to dig deep into their own inner sources of strength in order to find "the ability to overcome fear".

Many refugees face ongoing discrimination, violence and uncertainty, with little hope for a resolution in the near future. The theme calls on us to consider how we can provide solutions for these refugees. Research carried out by the Refugee Council of Australia has shown that refugees make important economic, civil and social contributions to Australian society. Australia’s refugees and humanitarian entrants have found success in every field of endeavour, including the arts, sports, media, science, research, business and civic and community life.

The exhibition is from 24 June – 3 July 2016 at Campbelltown Arts centre

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