



Local asylum seeker, refugee and migrant women's group receives grant for work program

SisterWorks Inc., a Melbourne support social enterprise for local migrants, refugees and asylum seeker women has been awarded a \$50,000 NAB Community Grant for its Business Lab program.

Under the program, participants have access to unique business education programs tailored to the needs of vulnerable women to set-up and grow their start-up businesses.

I was delighted to facilitate the grant by raising the importance of SisterWorks and the new program to NAB.

SisterWorks are supporting the most vulnerable asylum seeker, refugee and migrant women in Melbourne, including the Mornington region, who have to overcome a number of barriers to be able to make a living and transition to their new life.

SisterWorks' focus is on helping these vulnerable women become entrepreneurs or be given work experience. This can not only lead to a meaningful job and income stream, but provides them with a sense of belonging, confidence and social interaction.

There are also economic and job flow-on benefits for our community.

I congratulate SisterWorks on this important cause and NAB for providing the much needed funding.

Janett Egber, Manager Strategic Partnerships for Small Business at NAB said, "It makes me exceptionally proud to see such an impactful social enterprise making the most of our offer to use NAB's community and customer spaces; like NAB's The Village.

"The Village is our innovative co-working space we developed and provide for free to our small business and community customers. It's fantastic to see enterprises like SisterWorks flourish and prosper in this space, and in doing so, contribute so much to our community."

Mornington Peninsula resident and SisterWorks Joint Founder and CEO Luz Restrepo thanked NAB for its contribution and encouraged local citizens to support one of the many SisterWorks programs in Mornington and Greater Melbourne.

"We are so grateful to NAB and our local member Bruce for the funding, which is helping so many of our Sisters.

"We host a number of local events including markets every Wednesday in Main Street, Mornington, with products made by our members – we really encourage everyone to come along."

For more information on SisterWorks or to donate go to: <http://www.sisterworks.org.au/>