

A fair go for International Students



Darebin Overseas Student Advisory
Committee



City of
DAREBIN



The City of Darebin

- **137,000 people – growing at 12%**
- **One third born overseas – one quarter in new countries**
- **One third speak a language other than English at home**
- **North/South divide**
- **One in five over the age of 60 years**
- **8.6% non Christian – 19% no religious affiliation**
- **One in four earn less than \$500 per week**
- **One of five has a disability**



City of
DAREBIN



International Students in Australia

- **Over 600,000 international students in Australia**
- **Has been growing at about 12% a year**
- **About 30% of all students in Victoria**
- **China, India, Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Nepal, Indonesia, Brazil, USA, Colombia...Philippines.**
- **75% are aged between 20 and 29 years**
- **A 14 billion dollar industry**
- **Coal.....Iron Ore....Education**
- **\$29,000 and 1/3 of a worker**

Its about Social Inclusion and multiple systems failure

- **Housing stress and insecure accommodation**
- **Financial stress**
- **Insecure and exploitative employment**
- **Insecure educational experience**
- **Related insecurities around visa status**
- **High visibility yet isolated**
 - **Looking different**
 - **'Guest Worker' roles in the community**
- **Physical safety and highly publicised attacks**



Council's involvement

- **2006 – Research Report**
3,000 students in Darebin
- **2008 – DECC Forum**
- **Attack on Indian Taxi Driver**
- **2009 – DOSA**
Survey
A Fair Go Model Development
DIAC
Collapse of Colleges



Listening to International Students...

- **Spectrum of experiences**
- **Student diversity**
- **Shift in expectations**



Students experience being...

- **Uprooted** (on a personal level)
- **Marginalised** (in the community)
- **Disenfranchised** (to negotiate the system)

Darebin's vision is about...

- **Grounded** - personally
- **Included** - at a community level
- **Empowered** - to negotiate the systems



The Fair Go Model....



In a nut shell....!

Uprooted → Grounded

Marginalised → Included

Disenfranchised → Empowered

GROUNDED.... personally

Student issues: heard & acknowledged

Focus Group interview

Social support systems are developed

Student Support Triad

Student contributions valued

Work and Student placement

Volunteering for Darebin's festival



INCLUDED...in the community

Communities realise benefits & role

Civic Welcome for International students

Neighbourhoods relate and interact

Ozone Lounge

Private sector regulates its behavior

Compliance on rooming house standards



EMPOWERED...to navigate the system

Students address their own issues

Darebin Overseas Student Advisory Committee

Systems are challenged and improved

Student Forum and recommendations

Human rights + national benefit

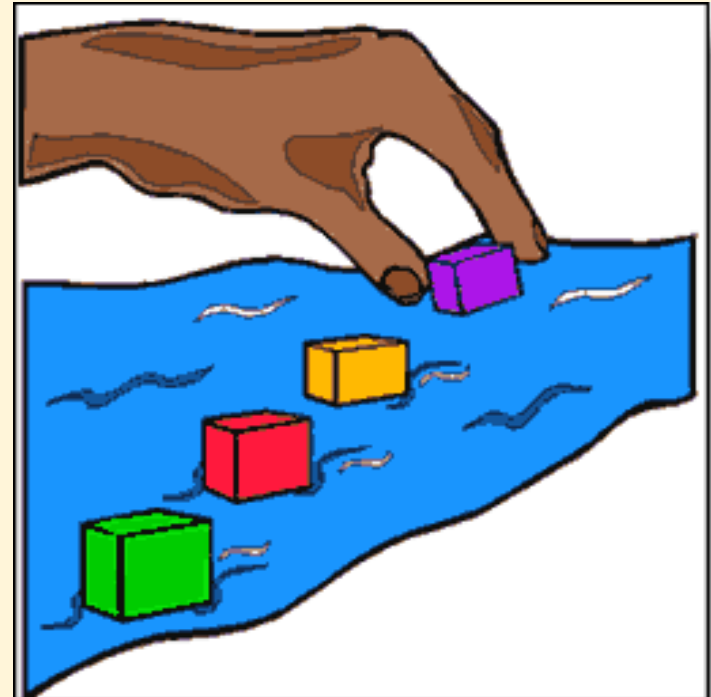
Boarders without Borders – affordable homestay options





Next ...

- Progress the projects
- Evaluation
- Regional approaches
- Maternal and Child Health
- Festival of festivals - October 24th



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