

# HOPE

**What happens when the most vulnerable people in our community, such as refugees and asylum seekers, are given a chance to let their resilience shine through?** They become *Symbols of Hope*.

Inspired by the tireless work of Paul and Robbin Moulds, The Pure Collective has co-created a pilot program: *Symbols of Hope*. This community driven program is designed to enable the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in our community: those who have fallen through the gaps in our social system but who have a burning hunger to improve their lives.

## WHY SYMBOLS OF HOPE:

Arriving in Australia once you have lost your home, country and family should be the first step in healing. But this is not the case for many new arrivals who have fallen through the support system of government (or are stopped from supporting themselves due to government policy). The struggles refugees face when trying to build a new life often become a second layer of trauma. It is for this reason that *Symbols of Hope* exists.

The *Symbols of Hope* pilot program is focused on crisis situations, in particular addressing the needs of:

- ❖ Newly arrived people in Australia who do not have work rights and/or access to Commonwealth government support;
- ❖ Women who are trapped in abusive relationships due to dependency on a spouse visa and therefore in fear of deportation.

The *Symbols of Hope* pilot program is being offered initially as an enhancement to the core support services provided by the The Salvation Army in Auburn (housing, food security, legal advice & basic needs).

After pilot phase, the program will look to incorporate other marginalised and disadvantaged groups in our society, with a view to supporting:

- ❖ Indigenous people
- ❖ Homeless or long-term unemployed people
- ❖ Other vulnerable migrants
- ❖ At-risk youth

Through skills development, education and training, this program opens up an avenue of hope for them to build new opportunities in their lives.

## HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

The *Symbols of Hope* program includes a hospitality training component, which prepares students for employment and the ability to work and earn an income in hospitality, in pursuit of longer term career aspirations or further education. Participants also have access to a wide range of additional activities/services offered through the broader Pure Collective community - from work-readiness and financial literacy workshops, to bushwalking and yoga.

The program is:

- ❖ Designed to provide support that extends to housing, basic needs, travel costs, food, uniforms and footwear, in addition to classes and services offered by The Pure Collective community.
- ❖ Structured around the foundation of a 3-month hospitality training program with a dedicated trainer to help educate participants about workplace expectations and prepare them for employment.
- ❖ An opportunity to build a network. Participants have the option of being a part of our Community Connector Program - people who can provide local advice and guidance on development and potential pathways to their dream career.

# H O P E

## HOW THE PARTICIPANTS ARE CHOSEN

- ❖ People are assessed on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of Paul and Robbin Moulds, who currently work within one of the most multicultural communities in Australia.
- ❖ The Pure Collective also takes guidance from Jane Tewson and the team at Igniting Change for inclusion of other students from their affiliated grassroots organisations.

## IMPACT TARGETS FOR YEAR ONE AT FULL CAPACITY:

- ❖ Provide over 5,000 hours of training
- ❖ Provide over 350 nights of safe accommodation
- ❖ Support and enable over 20 participants
- ❖ Connection to the community - facilitating inclusion, education pathways and work experience
- ❖ Pathways to employment or additional advanced training if employment is not an option

## OUR VISION

The *Symbols of Hope* program is a tangible way to create connections and inspire empathy. The stories of our participants are truly harrowing and their struggles create an understanding of hope, resilience and inspiration. We want to share these stories through film screenings and events across our premises. And most importantly, help our customers understand the caliber of people who are serving them – and how their journey's intersect with their own – through experiences at our restaurant and cafes - Folonomo, Symbol and Gratia.

## OUR GOAL

The marginalised, disadvantaged people in our program become integrated and valued members of society and are able to contribute to Australia's rich, diverse multicultural community.

