

Friday 12 September 2014

## **LANGUAGE-FRIENDLY WORKSHOP MAKES GOING TO “BIG” SCHOOL EASIER FOR MIGRANT FAMILIES**

More than 35 families new to the Ryde area, whose home languages include Bengali, Tamil, Hindi, Thai, Japanese, Korean and Teluga, have registered for a multi-lingual Transition to School Workshop to help them and their 4-year old child prepare to attend primary school in 2015.

The popular free workshops, are for parents unfamiliar with the Australian school system or for those who may have a language barrier. The family-friendly workshops provide multi-lingual resources, as well as translation and follow up services. Parents get the opportunity to find out:

- How to prepare your child for big school in 2015
- What ‘school readiness’ means in Australia
- What school is like in Australia, and
- What to do if their child has limited English.

The seminar also includes information for parents of a child with special needs. There is a free child-minding service at the location on the day.

City of Ryde Community Life Group Manager, Baharak Sahebekhtiari, said: “The majority of parents who attend these seminars do not have extended families in Australia and some have a language barrier or a child special needs.

“As our school system is quite different to that in their origin country, having interpreters, translated material, and free child-minding during the workshop, ensures that the parent is relaxed, fully informed and able to ask any questions they want.”

Transition to School Workshop, now in its third year, is coordinated by City of Ryde Council in partnership with the Community Migrant Resource Centre, Good Beginnings, STaR, Ethnic Child Care and Chinese Christian Community Services.

Transition to School Workshop, Tuesday 16 September (9.45am – 12.00noon at West Ryde Hall, 1A Station Street, West Ryde). For information and bookings:

- Chrys Fernando, Community Migrant Resource Centre (Mon & Thurs) 9858 1925 / 0403 885 573  
[subcont\\_northernregion@cmrc.com.au](mailto:subcont_northernregion@cmrc.com.au)
- Belinda Yeh, Chinese Christian Community Service Centre 9876 5546 / 0410 595 533  
[admin@cccsc.org.au](mailto:admin@cccsc.org.au)

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**Photo Opportunity: Tuesday 16 September, Parents and children attending Transition to School workshop, 11.45am – 12.00noon. West Ryde Hall, 1A Station Street, West Ryde**

Media contact: Lee Kirkland City of Ryde Media Officer 9952 8083 0434306444 [lkirkland@ryde.nsw.gov.au](mailto:lkirkland@ryde.nsw.gov.au)