

## **Using Community Engagement in Providing Pastoral Care of Mature International Students and Their Families**

Growing proportions of international students are mature and generally come for post graduate courses. The experience of study and life for these students is affected by the level and nature of their courses and issues associated with marriage and families many of whom may be present for at least part of their sojourn. Their pastoral care can be assisted by good community engagement programmes. This **half-day** workshop will provide insight into developing beneficial community engagement for these students and their families.

**Overall Aim:** To help you to share in creating and catalysing pastoral support for mature international students and their families through community engagement:

- By developing connectivity amongst international student support, local community and international students
- Through greater awareness of opportunities for community engagement and more effective communication of these opportunities
- So that your campus international support, local community and mature international students increase their engagement to the betterment of all.

### **Outline of workshop**

- **Awareness**
  - Theoretical underpinning of community engagement.
  - Knowing your international student body and own local community.
  - Understanding resources, opportunities, diversity and settlement.
  - Exploring attitudes important to developing community relationships.
- **Building Bridges**
  - Identifying connections for successful community engagement.
  - Building bridges amongst key players in campus & community.
  - Developing a support group to catalyse community engagement.
  - Providing activities that build community within a diverse student body.
- **Communication**
  - Communicating information regularly and relevantly
  - What works and what does not.
  - Content of communication
- **Development**
  - Discussing a framework for developing and organising in own context.
  - Identifying what needs to be done, who is ideally placed to do it.
  - Developing people resources within campus and community.
  - Achieving change and continuity of programme.
  - Case studies and networking connections.

### **Presenters:**

#### **Terry McGrath**

Terry McGrath began his involvement in the education industry as a high school chemistry teacher and then moved to a pastoral care role amongst tertiary students over 20 years ago. Currently he has a role as an international student chaplain at

Massey University in Palmerston North. He is also the National Coordinator for the ISM NZ (International Student Ministries of NZ) network. This latter role involves oversight of ISM NZ-sponsored chaplains and pastoral care workers throughout New Zealand. His professional interests include development and research involving international students and migrants, and he has an interest in professional development in the international education industry and serves as Vice president of ISANA NZ.

**Jenny McGrath**

Jenny McGrath has a variety of involvements and skills having worked as a librarian and currently with roles in assisting in University graduation & examinations and managing the ASL transport exams centre. Over the last 20 or so years Jenny has been very involved in community early childhood education with focus in the playgroup movement. Her involvement as a consequence with families and children has been significant in her role with Terry in Chaplaincy amongst the international students and their families at Massey University. Jenny's interests centre around family and people and her community work and contacts are invaluable in the university chaplaincy and international student support arenas.