

CareerSeekers Internship Program

Summary

The Victorian Government is committed to welcoming our newest arrivals and recognises the rich contribution people from refugee backgrounds can make to our community - socially, culturally and economically.

Over the next few years, Victoria will welcome an increasing number of people from refugee backgrounds including people seeking asylum. People from refugee backgrounds often face barriers to gaining employment, despite significant experience and qualifications outside of Australia. CareerSeekers aims to break down these barriers, provide opportunities and honour skills, knowledge and experience.

Department of Health and Human Services Pilot Program

The Department of Health and Human Services is currently piloting the CareerSeekers New Australian Internship Program. Four mid-career professionals have commenced in central office. The department aims to continue and extend the program to operational divisions.

CareerSeekers program overview

CareerSeekers is a non-profit social enterprise that works with organisations to create 12-week paid professional internship opportunities for asylum seekers and recently arrived refugees. The program bridges the gap between new Australians and employees seeking to create a more diverse workforce. Internships are available under two streams:

- Mid-career professionals who already have a tertiary qualification and professional experience
- University students who undertake placements in each year of their degree.

CareerSeekers offers comprehensive support to participants and managers before, during and after the internship

Participant profile

CareerSeekers works with those who have been seeking asylum or a refugee for less than three years. All participants hold visas with work rights and have English proficiency that enables them to operate in a professional environment. Participants in the program have a range of skills and experience, including IT, finance, HR, health, human services, engineering and administration.

Program costs

Interns are paid a relevant level wage for the 12 weeks of the internship. A sponsorship fee applies for each intern placed. If the host organisation chooses to extend the internship beyond 12 weeks or transition the intern to ongoing employment no further fee applies.

More information#

Ash Nugent#
CareerSeekers
0447 432 303
ash.nugent@careerseekers.org.au

Mikala Purton
Department of Health and Human Services
(03) 9096 7933
mikala.purton@dhhs.vic.gov.au

To register interest as a participant or employer head to: www.careerseekers.org.au/contact-us

To receive this publication in an accessible format email diversity@dhhs.vic.gov.au.

Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.

© State of Victoria, Department of Health and Human Services September, 2016.