

Supporting People Seeking Asylum and Refugees

RMIT's Strategy and Outcomes
2018-20

What's next...

Inclusion: A Core RMIT Value



"RMIT creates life-changing opportunities for all, welcomes students and staff from diverse backgrounds, honours the identity and knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nations, and is an accessible and open institution dedicated to serving the needs of the whole community."

- Ready for Life and Work strategy



Identified barriers to access and success and our response



Difficulty navigating tertiary education offerings, pathways and application processes



Require additional development in English for academic purposes



May have multiple, complex, simultaneous personal issues, along with the stressful uncertainty of government policy, and of the determination of their own visa application



A lack of government income support, with limited, precarious, and low-paid or no employment, leads to poverty and insecure housing



Discrimination in the employment market, lack of local qualifications, and lack of social and professional networks impede graduate employment



They must pay full international student fees

Our Response

RMIT Classification: Trusted



Financial challenges

College fee waivers:
· 3 Higher Ed
· 45 VE or VCE

Living allowance bursaries \$5000

Annual Myki.



English language

RMIT School of School of Vocational Design & Social Context offers early-stage English language assessment (pre-IELTS) and pathways advice.



Navigating the offerings and processes

Deliver individualised advice and support on careers, educational pathways and the tertiary education application processes for applicants.



Employment support

Provide dedicated jobs on campus, and customised career development programs.



Personal and legal complexities

Adopt a case management approach, enabling fast referral to personal, legal and academic support services, as well as community supports.



Social and professional capital

Provide personalised engagement with industry and employers to facilitate employment, and social and networking opportunities.

Partners and collaborators

RMIT Schools and Colleges
RMIT Coursework Scholarships
ARG and RMIT International

RMIT School of Vocational Design and Social Context

Asylum Seeker Resource Centre
Study@RMIT
ARG
RMIT Skills and Job Centre

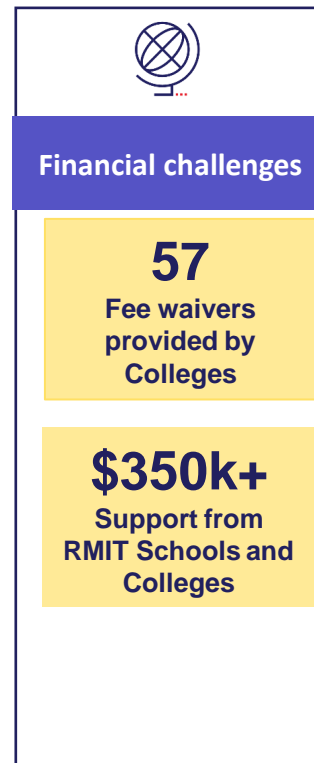
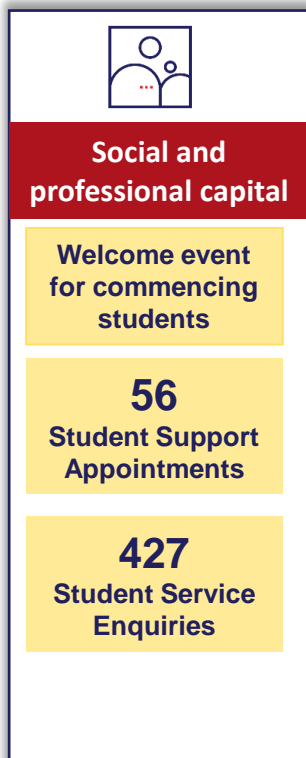
RMIT Careers & Industry Experiences
Operations portfolio

RMIT Student Wellbeing
RMIT Connect
Mental Wellbeing Initiatives team

RMIT Careers & Industry Experiences
RMIT Student Life
Community partner organisations

Our outcomes 2018-2020

RMIT Classification: Trusted



Careers



Diverse Student cohorts,
including Humanitarian

Service model
informed by
data, research,
focus groups

Employer
advocacy,
systemic
change

Career Success Program

Empowering RMIT's diverse students
to build on & articulate their strengths
& capabilities for future career success

Proactive
outreach at
relevant
touchpoints

Initiatives to
build social,
cultural &
economic
capital

Individualised,
'high-touch',
strengths-based
approach

Referrals e.g.
Career Seekers,
ASRC, RMIT
Wellbeing &
Counselling,



Our impact

Receiving the Scholarship is a dream come true. I can't stress enough how I feel about this Scholarship. It helped me a lot in many ways. “

“Without the Scholarship I wouldn't be studying. I would probably be depressed and sleeping thinking about my future... the Scholarship gave me the opportunity to start what I want to do with my life.”

Receiving this scholarship I feel greatly reduced my financial burden and [has] given me peace of mind and allows me to continue to pursue my educational dreams.”

Learning and Recommendations



- Drawing on international and local best practice, engaging the RMIT community of academic and professional staff, collaborating across RMIT operational units and with community sector partners, **RMIT can design and deliver impactful programs that address significant community disadvantage**
- **College support for fee waiver places, along with living allowance bursaries**, are crucial in providing access to tertiary education
- **Providing holistic support across the ‘student lifecycle’ and using a ‘whole of community’ approach** underpins our aspiration to help students gain access to education, but also to stay, succeed, and attain meaningful employment
- We need to **reflect and affirm the strengths and potential of this cohort**: 100% of students have continued studies throughout the challenging COVID-19 pandemic period reflecting the commitment of the group.