



**RASNZ**  
Refugee health  
& wellbeing

## **RASNZ Welcoming Schools Programme**

RASNZ (Refugees as Survivors NZ) is a specialist mental health and wellbeing service for people from refugee backgrounds living in Aotearoa/New Zealand. This is a new initiative for schools with high numbers of students from refugee backgrounds being offered by RASNZ in 2021.

The RASNZ youth team, RASNZ Youth have been providing school holiday programmes, youth leadership forums, mentoring for university students and psychosocial support for children and young people from refugee backgrounds, as well as social, sporting and cultural events for many years.

This year, with funding from the Auckland Council, they are able to offer a broader programme for the education sector, including:

- RASNZ Cross-cultural Trauma Informed training for school staff. This approach will acknowledge the contribution of schools to the processes of recovery, resettlement, and integration for young people and parents from refugee backgrounds.
- School-based, fun empowerment programmes for youth from refugee backgrounds. This approach leads to better connections between students from refugee backgrounds and support staff within school communities.
- School Presentations and Classroom Workshops. This approach is aimed at the wider school community, to build understanding and empathy for the refugee journey.

The aim is to support school teams, learning support services and Ministry of Education staff by:

- Informing a whole of school cross-cultural trauma informed care approach to supporting students from refugee backgrounds.
- Raising schools' awareness of the impact of the refugee journey and refugee resettlement, and of resources to support students from a refugee background.
- Supporting young people and families from refugee backgrounds to achieve educational aims and to maintain mental health and wellbeing.

The programmes are offered free of charge to anyone working in the education sector with refugee background students and whānau in the Auckland region.

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