



Equity status for refugee–background tertiary students

What is the aim of the project?

To have refugee-background tertiary students recognised as an equity group both in government policy and at universities and polytechnics throughout Aotearoa New Zealand.

What is an equity group?

This would mean that refugee-background students studying at universities and polytechnics would be able to access additional study support and resources. This is likely to result in greater numbers of refugee-background students enrolling and completing their studies.

Why is this important?

Because there are many barriers that reduce the ability of refugee-background students to enrol at universities and polytechnics and to complete their studies.

Who are we working with?

ChangeMakers Refugee Forum is working with the New Zealand National Refugee Network, academics from Victoria University, and ESOL Access and Assessment Specialist Service (MCLaSS).

What are we doing?

We are all working on different areas of this project. ChangeMakers and the National Refugee Network have collated this work into an advocacy paper.

The paper includes:

- A review of NZ's national and international obligations supporting the right to tertiary education.
- Examples of how refugee-background students are supported in other countries.
- An overview of what support is currently available for refugee-background students in NZ universities and polytechnics.
- A case study paralleling the achievement of Pasifika students as an equity group.
- Research from current refugee-background students on the barriers and challenges they face.
- Information about the impact of stopping the refugee study grants in 2010.
- Recommendations to the NZ Government, policy makers, and leaders within NZ universities and polytechnics.

Please contact Alia Bloom, Research Coordinator, at 801 5812 or alia@crf.org.nz, if you have any questions.