Monash University Student Program

The SMRC has enjoyed a successful partnership for many years with Monash University Department of Social Work. We usually host one or two students per year. However, this year we have embarked on an ambitious student placement project, hosting a combined group of six social work students. The students have been participating in a number of programme areas across the Settlement and Aged Care teams, including casework, community engagement, service development and service quality measurement. On the 20th August our students presented to a group of Bachelor of Social Work Students at Monash University to provide information about SMRC so that other students can consider whether they would be interested in a social work placement with us. We provided an overview of the organisation with particular mention of the Aged Care Team and the Settlement Team, as these are the areas where a social work student would be placed with us. We explained that SMRC provides a supportive and inclusive environment for social work students, and that we have a well-developed orientation process. At present our social work students are shared between the two teams and their roles vary. The students’ tasks include: research, case work, project work and group work. We try to include students in all aspects of SMRC activities and we encourage them to attend internal and external meetings. Social work students Kathryn Wood and Talia Feigen spoke about their experiences of a social work placement at SMRC, mentioning how interesting it is to work in a culturally diverse workplace and what an excellent learning environment we provide. Both Talia and Kathryn are involved in case work and family support work. Initially they each worked alongside SMRC staff but now they are beginning to work independently with clients. Both students highlighted ways in which working with interpreters is an important learning experience. We are currently reviewing the program to see whether we can offer a similar intake in 2014.

For more information please contact the Settlement Manager, Despina Haralambopoulos on 97056966 or email despina@smrc.org.au

Monash Social Work Students
L to R: (Back), Haining Lan, Talia Feigen, Melissa Smith, Kathryn Wood, Ajay Yada, (Front) Jinju Oh.