

Tony Fry

Refuge of Hope
Vice-President



Tony Fry is the Vice-President of the Refuge of Hope. Previously he was the Chief Executive Officer of the Scanlon Foundation for over ten years. Whilst in this role he played a significant role in commencing the National Community Hubs Program (NCHP) in 2007 in the City of Hume. As NCHP Program Manager, he has been a driving force behind its evolution, establishment and successful management. He continues to play a major role in its leadership, growth and development.

The National Community Hubs Program

The National Community Hubs Program (NCHP) aims to strengthen social cohesion within local communities. It utilises a placed-based, citizen-centric Community Hub Model, leveraging trust and familiarity with Primary Schools and Community Centres, to deliver a coordinated package of services focused on improving

1. Access to Settlement Services
2. Language, Literacy and Learning Skills
3. Participation in Early Years Services, and
4. Parent and Family Capacity Building.

Research, undertaken by Professor Andrew Markus from Monash University, demonstrates that engagement at the community level, through schools and local community institutions is a key element in cohesion and settlement. The Hubs model is the practical response to these findings. The Refuge of Hope, supported by the Scanlon Foundation, with Federal Government Department of Social Services funding support, have now established 42 Hubs in Local Government Areas (LGA's) in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria where there are high migrant population from low socioeconomic and disadvantaged backgrounds. The key features of the program will be presented together with the independent evaluations that are reporting high levels of confidence in the model and positive satisfaction from clients using the Hubs.