



ICT@ICE:

# EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES AND THE SECTOR THROUGH ICT

presented by

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# THE STORY OF ICE

- Develops innovative community arts and Information Technology projects
- Works to engage and empower diverse communities
- Works in partnership with a variety of government and non government agencies
- Started as a mobile information van staffed by 1 worker. Now up to 12 staff work on diverse community projects

# WESTERN SYDNEY

- Population of more than 1.6 million
- 48% under 30 years of age
- 12.2% 60 years and over
- Most culturally diverse region in Australia
- 20,634 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
- 14 Local Government Areas
- Emerging communities from North and Central African countries

(Office of Western Sydney, NSW Department of State and Regional Development)

# COMMUNITY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

- Aims to empower communities and the Non Government sector through ICT
- Conducts projects at the grass roots and on a strategic level – Engaging Communities Project, NGO IT Network, Making Links
- Switch Multimedia and Digital Arts Access Centre for Western Sydney:
- Partnership with Parramatta Council – started in a temporary space with refurbished PCs and Open Source Software
- Now conducts digital arts and multimedia projects to address community issues and enhance self expression
- ICT Projects DVD

# THE ENGAGING COMMUNITIES PROJECT

- In partnership with Parramatta Council
- Libraries and Community Technology Centres
- Aims – engaging communities and partners
- Pilot programs and participation
- Challenges
- Benefits

# MORE THAN HOMEWORK HELP

*“We have found the Parramatta Learning Centre to be an extremely worthwhile experience for our students at a number of different levels. It readily engages them in an action of voluntary community work on behalf of others and the responsibilities associated with volunteering at the learning centre are very helpful in developing the confidence and sense of achievement experienced by our students. In other words the volunteering experience is an excellent tool in leadership development.”*

Paul Lentern, Director of Mission, Our Lady of Mercy College, Parramatta



Natalie and Waris at the Homework Help Learning Centre, Parramatta City Library

# PARRAMAPPA

- Working with refugee young people
- Using digital arts to address community issues, reduce isolation, increase opportunities for education and self expression

<http://www.ice.org.au/parramappa>



# FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Engaging Communities – outcomes and resources, keeping partnerships alive, moving into new LGAs
- Connecting Communities – working with groups that emerged during the project in new ways
- Accessing Communities through Outreach programs and working with local councils to develop new spaces
- Skilling Communities by developing ICT and digital arts curriculum and resources, helping young people achieve accreditation and fostering leadership
- Strengthening Communities by working with sector partners to find innovative solutions to shared problems of Infrastructure, Funding and IT support



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