

## Mission Australia AR contributions

Q. What would it take to best support newly arrived young women?

### Observation/ reflection

Since our inception in August 2006, we have been doing case management and have been pretty busy, resettling our young persons into school and the community. As the numbers of young persons were increasing in our program, it became apparent that we do more for them than case management.

### Plan

Through discussions with them, we started a support group for young African girls.

### Action

We held our first meeting on the 21st February 2007. Thirteen of our young girls attended with great enthusiasm to start interacting with each other. They were all bubbly, and some giggled nervously whilst some needed food first. They conversed in similar and unfamiliar languages with each other.

### Observations/reflection

The girls settled well with the group norms and expressed freely what their expectations were. The girls showed great insight when we were discussing the topics of interest. Many interests were aired, however the general consensus of their interests was very academically focused – the girls said that they wanted to progress in their English skills and thought that this group will support them to build their confidence in speaking in public.

### Plan

With this in mind we decided to make English the language of communication within the group. The group agreed to meet fortnightly and to prepare for a topic to be discussed. Guest speakers will be invited and an open day will be planned for family and friends.